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BP28

Buts! Gunman robs health food store

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

A popular Remsen Street health food store was robbed by a gunman who pulled out his weapon, ordered customers to the side, and handed the cashier a note at around 4:30 pm on July 15.

The thug's note — "Give me all your money" — prompted the cashier to hand over \$1,783. The perp then ran from the store, which is between Court and Clinton streets, and jumped into a waiting white four-door sedan driven by an accomplice.

The car's license plate begins with "J47," police said.

Unsafe at home

A thug followed a woman into a high-rise apartment building on Henry Street on July 11, took the elevator with her to the sixth floor and then pushed his way into her apartment when she unlocked the door, police said.

The robber grabbed the woman's bag, containing her wallet, but the wallet was later found in the stairwell of the building, which is near Love Lane, with nothing missing.

Houdinis at work

A clever thief stole the wallet of a man who said he had secured his billfold with a combination lock in the locker room of a building on Remsen Street near Clinton Street on July 11.

And two days later, the same thing happened in a YMCA locker room on Atlantic Avenue. In the first incident, cops say the thief "used unknown methods" to open the lock and pluck the wallet.

The victim lost \$20 and credit cards in the 6 pm theft.

In the second incident, a pilferer picked a combination lock at 4:30 pm and helped himself to \$30, various ID cards, credit cards and a cellphone.

Looked away

A woman shopping in a Fulton Street discount store around 5 pm on July 11 put her wallet down for a second — which was just long enough for a thief to help himself to it, police said.

The woman lost \$70 in U.S. currency and \$100 in her native Trinidadian bills. She also lost her visa and various documents from Trinidad and Tobago, where she lives.

Bad trip

A Dean Street woman picked a bad time to go on a business trip. When she re-

POLICE BLOTTER

turned on July 6, she discovered that thousands of dollars in jewelry had been stolen.

The door of the apartment, between Smith and Hoyt streets, had been pried open and her jewelry box — containing two antique rings valued at \$3,000, one pair of diamond earrings valued at \$1,500 and 20 pairs of much-cheaper bangles — were gone.

Old car taken

A 1995 Jeep Cherokee was stolen sometime between 6 pm on July 12 and 1 pm the next day.

The owner told police that she parked the car in front of 77 Gold St., near Front Street, but it was not there when she returned.

The vehicle has a Blue Book value of virtually nothing. The police report put its value at \$0 — small consolation to its car-less owner.

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Rough request

A 16-year-old boy was mugged at the corner of Willow and Pineapple streets on July 11 at 4:30 pm, police said.

The boy, who lives nearby, told cops that two older kids approached him and demanded a dollar. The teen actually had \$5 on him, which was promptly taken. Unsatisfied, the two older boys rifled the teen's pockets, but found nothing else to steal.

Bad night out

After relaxing in a bar at Bergen and Hoyt streets early on July 15, a woman discovered that a thief had lightened her bag.

The woman told cops that she'd put the bag down shortly after midnight, when she returned a few hours later she found that it no longer contained her money, her cellphone or her credit cards.

Before she could cancel the cards, they had been used to purchase Metromeds at a nearby subway station, cops said.

Bad dog!

A dog was an accomplice to a robbery late on July 14, when two men — and the pooch — surrounded a man and stole his iPod.

The man was walking towards his apartment on Jay Street in DUMBO when the two men approached. One of the men — the one without the dog — punched the victim and took the device while the other man and the dog stood watch.

The victim did not give cops a good description of the perps, but did say the dog was black.

Nice co-worker

Two female transit workers got into a fight at the end of their workday on July 14, but continued the fight onto the platform of the Clark Street subway station, where one of the workers stabbed the other with a ballpoint pen, cops said.

After the 11 pm incident, the 20-year-old victim returned to the token booth and called the cops, but the perp was gone by the time police arrived.

Police say they know the identity of the 19-year-old suspect.

Play leads to burg

While a woman played with her children in a basement on Beard Street, near Richards Street, a robber came through a first-floor window and made off with a laptop, police said.

The 42-year-old victim said the thief slipped inside through an open window, unnoticed. Too bad the family recently removed the screen at their home, which is near Richards Street.

The robber took a \$2,500 portable computer and a black purse between noon and 1 pm on July 12.

Bad dream burg

No, it wasn't just a bad dream. But it could have been a nightmare.

A President Street couple where startled awake at 3 am on July 2, when the vision of a burglar appeared at their window, police said. The stranger stood on their fire-escape as he wrenched free the screen on the bedroom window, in an apartment building between Henry and Clinton streets.

Luckily, a locked window — and the couple's alertness — kept the prowler from coming any further.

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Compliment leads to leash whooping

By Sara Vogel
for The Brooklyn Papers

The old adage goes, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." But one 33-year-old nice guy found out that even compliments can have consequences.

The man alleges that while walking down Myrtle Avenue near Vanderbilt Avenue at around 7 am on July 15, he told a man with a turquoise t-shirt and blue jeans that he liked his dog.

A "polite," "Thank you," would have surely sufficed, but in a show of gratitude for the kind words, the pet-owner detached his dog's leash from the collar and whipped it into the man's face.

Stunned, the victim, his face swelling, stumbled down Myrtle Avenue towards Washington Avenue where he stopped a man on the street for some help. Cops arrived and searched the neighborhood for the disgruntled dog-walker, but he was not found.

A 42-year-old man with a knife accosted a 19-year-old man taking a stroll on Myrtle Avenue before midnight on July 14, lifting \$70 in cash before speeding away on foot towards Navy Street — but he didn't get far.

The victim spotted a cop nearby and shouted, "That guy just robbed me!" prompting the officer to chase and apprehend the alleged mugger. The money was not recovered — the perp threw the \$70 into a rain gutter, cops said — but the suspect was arrested.

Gunned down
A 27-year-old man was fatally shot in the chest by an unidentified gunman in the Wall Whitman Houses at around 5 am on July 16.

Police said the shooter was one of three masked men who may have been looking to rob the victim, but an investigation of the homicide is ongoing.

A quick lift
A woman exited the B25 bus at Fulton Street and Grand Avenue at 8 pm on July 14 to find that a stealthy pickpocket had lifted her wallet right out of her handbag.

The billfold held several credit cards, department store cards and her driver's license. **Get witness?**
Perps woke up early — close to 4 am — on July 10 to steal

POLICE BLOTTER

parts off a silver Nissan Maxima parked near Vanderbilt and Park avenues.

Little did they know, a female witness was watching the whole scene. She called the cops and described the three thieves in such detail that cops were quickly able to identify the suspects.

The men were found hiding out in a car with a fourth accomplice. The cops pulled the four men — ages 21, 19, 19, and 17 — out of the car and recovered the stolen headlights and grill.

The men were arrested for grand larceny and the property was returned to the owner of the Nissan.

Calling all cars
A 47-year-old Virginia man who let his 22-year-old nephew borrow his red Infiniti sedan on July 13 ended up losing the car and his cellphone to a thief.

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One neighbor said she heard noise in the hallway, but did not get a good look at the thief, who is at large.

Gun menace
A 21-year-old man who refused to give two men a dollar found himself looking down the barrel of a silver handgun on July 12 — and promptly giving up his entire wallet.

The victim lost \$7, a bank card, and his Social Security card in the robbery.

The two perps fled in opposite directions from the crime, which took place at the corner of Myrtle and Clermont avenues.

Cops followed the two men through Fort Greene Park, but lost track of the gun-toting thieves.

Old car taken
For some reason, a thief who lusted after a 1995 Jeep Cherokee stole the car sometime between 6 pm on July 12 and 1 pm the next day.

The owner told police that she parked the car in front of 77 Gold St., near Front Street, but it was not there when she returned.

The vehicle has a Blue Book value of virtually nothing. The police report put its value at \$0 — small consolation to its car-less owner.

Bad dog!
A dog was an accomplice to a robbery late on July 14, when two men — and the pooch — surrounded a man and stole his iPod.

The man was walking towards his apartment on Jay Street in DUMBO when the two men approached. One of the men — the one without the dog — punched the victim and took the device while the other man and the dog stood watch.

The victim did not give cops a good description of the perps, but did say the dog was black.

Unsafe at home
A thing followed a woman into a high-rise apartment building on Henry Street on July 11, took the elevator with her to the sixth floor and then pushed his way into her apartment when she unlocked the door, police said.

The robber grabbed the woman's bag, containing her wallet, but the wallet was later found in the stairwell of the building, which is near Love Lane, with nothing missing.

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Jackie's place

Friends and family of late great Park Slope community activist Jackie Connor cheered on Saturday, July 15, as the corner of Carroll Street and Seventh Avenue — her "office" — is renamed in honor of the lifelong Slope gadfly. Connor, who died in March, would have celebrated her 64th birthday that day. — Ariella Cohen

On the Towns

Two try to unseat incumbent Ed

By Sara Vogel
for The Brooklyn Papers

The race to unseat long-time Rep. Ed Towns is the David and Goliath story of 2006.

As in the Biblical story, the two men trying to defeat 12-term incumbent Towns (D-Fort Greene) — City Councilman Charles Barron (D-Canarsie) and Assemblyman Roger Green (D-Fort Greene) — are carrying tiny slingshots of cash while Towns has a howitzer.

According to federal disclosure forms released last week, Towns has \$407,427 on hand to wage the fight, while the two Davids in this story — Barron and Green — have \$68,285 and \$4,848 respectively.

But Barron's not worried: "Money's extremely impor-

THE FIGHTIN' TENTH?

tant. It can get you some mailings and Election Day operations. [But] it's the people that vote, not the money."

Barron pointed to Towns's squeaky victory over virtually unknown attorney Barry Ford in 1998 as evidence that money isn't everything. In that campaign, Towns had \$650,000 to Ford's \$250,000, and won the seat by a 52-47 percent vote.

But when Ford lost to Towns again in 2000, it was by a greater margin, and Towns had raised \$1.5 million to Ford's \$300,000.

Towns's lure will fund radio ads and a mass mailing, he said. The incumbent said the



Rep. Ed Towns

inability of Green and Barron to raise the big bucks indicates that voters in the district are still comfortable with his leadership.

ership.

"I'm not running against a choir member [but] elected officials," he said. "For them not to be able to raise any money, that says something."

Green said his work in Albany kept him from fundraising until recently, but he may also be trailing with voters who remember his conviction last year for defrauding the state out of thousands of dollars in travel expenses. The scandal forced Green to resign, although he was later re-elected.

Still, he fights on, saying that money doesn't matter.

"They say that money is the lifeblood of politics, but we're going to challenge that refrain: ideas are the lifeblood of politics," he said.

Spoken like a candidate with \$4,848 cash on hand.

Teen robs man twice

By Brendan Mysliwiec
for The Brooklyn Papers

A middle-aged man mugged on Fifth Avenue on July 10 knew his victim well — it was same 14-year-old hoodlum who had mugged him four days earlier.

The young thug, who was accompanied by another 14-year-old, caught up with the victim between Warren and Balis Streets and demanded his cellphone, saying, "Give us your phone or I'll hurt you."

He then showed the victim's face and said, "Remember me from last time? I will hurt you again," before running off.

With the help of the victim, two suspects were apprehended later that day, police said.

Picture perfect

An artistically minded thief managed to get away with over \$5,000 worth of photography equipment on July 11.

The victim, a 37-year-old resident of Prospect-Lefferts Gardens, told police that she had left the bag, itself worth \$350, by the rear door of a pho-

POLICE BLOTTER

tography store on Sixth Avenue, near Union Street, and didn't see the theft because she was working at a computer facing away from the door.

PPW car theft

A 37-year-old Manhattan man returned to his Prospect Park West parking spot on July 12 to discover his car was no longer there. He had parked the car on the park side of the street, between Garfield and Montgomery places, three days earlier. There was no broken glass or other signs of forced entry, police said.

Slash on Sixth

A man had to be taken to Methodist Hospital on July 12 after an altercation on Sixth Avenue ended with him being slashed.

The 45-year-old man had gotten into an argument with an unknown assailant at 10 pm on Sixth Avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets, police said.

Airbag theft

A 44-year-old Park Place resident checking on his car after a few days away on July 12 found a rear window of his Honda Pilot broken and his airbags missing.

Police believe that this theft is connected to a string of recent airbag swipes.

Office snatch

An employee of a Garfield Place law office discovered that her purse had been stolen out from under her desk on July 13. The woman, who was away from her desk for a short time, did not notice the theft until later in the day. Police suspect a friend of a client, who came in at the time of the purse's disappearance, but no arrest was made.

The \$60 purse contained numerous debit cards in addition to a \$275 cellphone and the Social Security cards of both the victim and her son.

School larceny

A 29-year-old employee at PS 321 on Seventh Avenue found that the contents of her purse had been removed during a five-minute absence on July 14.

The woman, who had left the purse in her unlocked booth, discovered the theft immediately upon her return, but did not notice anyone unusual in the area. The perp or perps didn't get much though: the woman's wallet contained not much more than \$15, her debit card and her food stamp card.

F train filcher

A 25-year-old Park Slope woman had her purse ripped right off her shoulder on July 15 while she sat on a Manhattan-bound F train stopped at Fourth Avenue.

The woman and a friend watched, stunned, as the assailant ran off the platform and out of sight. The empty purse was recovered by a transit worker by the exit of the station. Among the items stolen from the purse were \$95 and a digital camera.

King won't be intimidated

By Sara Vogel
for The Brooklyn Papers

It has been quite a week for Elizabeth Atwood King. On Friday, July 14, she was running for state Senate. By Monday, she was not. The next day, it was a maybe.

At the start of last week, King, a former aide to then-state Sen. Marty Markowitz, told The Brooklyn Papers that she was dropping out of the central Brooklyn race after being "intimidated" out of filing

her nominating petitions.

King said someone had jimmied the lock on her apartment door, and that her neighbors had spotted armed, off-duty police officers cursing at a foul pm on her opponent throughout her apartment building.

King, who is running in the race to replace Congressional hopeful state Sen. Carl Andrews (D-Crown Heights), said "the last straw" was when someone slashed her tire. "Of course it's a foul play," she said. "This is a hole put in

your tire, a deliberate hole."

Yet the next day, King said reports of her candidacy's death were greatly exaggerated — by her in this case.

"[The tire] really shook me up," she said, adding that her supporters asked her to stay in the race.

Now, too late to submit her nominating petitions, King says she may run as a write-in candidate in the primary Sept. 12. Her opponents are skeptical. "We need to ask, did she really raise the money? Did she get

the signatures?" said the race's front-runner, Eric Adams, a retired police captain.

"Instead, they're [coming] up with reasons why they're not prepared."

Adams collected 10,000 signatures and Anthony Alexis filed 3,000. Only 1,000 signatures are required, but most candidates file several thousand more because arcane state laws make it easy to invalidate hundreds of signatures. King had just 1,600 by the filing deadline last week.

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Who is Steve?

The Brooklyn Papers

We asked voters in Bay Ridge if they had ever heard of Steve Harrison. Here are their responses:



"No. He's got to let himself be seen. I've never seen him. I've never even heard of him."

Moe Asad
Owner, Most Emporium
Leans Democrat



"No ... [Politicians] don't do nothing for you. They promise a lot of things, but when they get elected, they don't even know you're alive. They just [want] prestige, to make money, evade taxes, and play with the people's money."

Rush Chatti
Car service supervisor
Leans Democrat



"No. But, I would really like to get some info ... I'm anti-Bush, but that wouldn't mean I wouldn't vote for a Republican. My dad always said, 'Vote Democrat in the national elections, vote Republican in the local.'"

Peggy Fratianni
Retired nurse
Leans Democrat



"I've heard the name. I saw him somewhere, but I didn't piece it together that he was running for Congress."

Denis Kyvik
Owner, Holbro Art Supplies
Republican



"No. Maybe he should ask Bill and Hillary for money — they have tons of it."

Catherine McDonald
Retired
Republican

Interviews and Photos
by Dana Rubinstein

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Harrison has 13K to battle Fossella

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

The hand-picked Democrat trying to unseat four-term incumbent Rep. Vito Fossella doesn't have a campaign war chest — in fact, he barely has a change purse.

Federal disclosure forms released last week reveal that Steve Harrison, the former chairman of Community Board 10, has a paltry \$13,234 on hand for his battle against Fossella (R-Bay Ridge), whose campaign has \$519,596 cash on hand — and counting.

Harrison did manage to raise \$31,658 during the period between April 1 and June 30 — about one-fifth of what Fossella raised. Like many incumbents, Fossella gets the bulk of his money from political action committees.

But, Harrison's less-than-stellar showing is striking in light of the recent scandals that have besieged the incumbent's campaign.

As The Brooklyn Papers reported earlier this month, Fossella has been under fire for allegedly using campaign funds for personal use, including trips to the Bellagio Hotel

and Casino in Las Vegas and the Lodge at Vail.

Fossella has also been accused of using government funds for campaign purposes, including printing a now-notorious photo of Fossella with Sesame Street characters Elmo and Rosita in taxpayer-funded mailings.

But so far, neither the scandal, nor the 13th Congressional district's fairly moderate constituents — the district went for John Kerry in the 2004 election, and 61 percent of registered voters are Democrats — have translated into backs or backing for Harrison.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee,

which spearheads fundraising efforts for Democratic challengers of Republican incumbents and has targeted more than a dozen "soft" GOP targets, would not comment on Harrison, despite repeated calls from The Brooklyn Papers.

The so-called "Verrazano District," oddly, is not one of the DCCC's primary focuses. The Committee's Web site barely even mentions the Harrison campaign.

Harrison attributes that to the Catch-22 inherent in getting support from the national party.

"You have to show you have the money to get the money from them," he said.

See STEVE on page 8

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SUPER RABBI!

Another major civil rights barrier will fall this week when a Brooklyn man becomes the first Hasidic rabbi to ever address the nation's largest comic book convention.

OK, as civil rights triumphs go, Rabbi Simcha Weinstein's appearance at this week-end's "Comic Con" in San Diego isn't exactly Rosa Parks refusing to move to the back of the bus, but Weinstein believes it will make history nonetheless.

"This is big for a rabbi," he said. Parks, of course, was freeing her people from oppression and segregation, while Weinstein will be merely hawking his book, "Up, Up and Oy Vey: How Jewish History, Culture, and Values Shaped the Comic Book Superhero."

But these two civil rights pioneers do share a spiritual underpinning that spans the generations.

"So much is from the Bible, whether conscious or subconscious," said Weinstein, referring to the creation of the original superhero Pantheon.

"Superman compared himself to Samson. And the Incredible Hulk is right out of the Golden story."

Full disclosure: I'm not a religious man. In fact, I think God is as much a figment of human imagination as Superman and Batman — and responsible for a heck of a lot more human misery.

Weinstein may be a Hasidic rabbi, but he

has an easy charm and anti-dogmatic style that bridges the gap between him, a man of the cloth, and me, a man of dirty underwear.

Weinstein's forum — The Jewish Side of Comics — will address the hidden hand of Jewish comic book artists and historic figures in the creation of today's most-popular graphic icons.

Experts in the cliquish, fluorescent-lit comic world predict Weinstein will experience great naches from the attendees of the massive, three-day Comic Con.

"They're going to love him," said forum organizer Steve Berkson.

Weinstein, a rabbi at Pratt Institute in Clinton Hill, thinks he knows why: "I'm going to be received with open arms by the geeks and the nerds because I'm the rabbi to the geeks and nerds."

How big is Weinstein's appearance at Comic Con?

Consider this: Other big stars in attendance include Samuel L. Jackson (you know, Mace Windu from "Star Wars Episode III — Revenge of the Sith"), sci-fi legend Ray Bradbury, and Walter Koenig (and if you don't know who he is, there's a way you read this far in the article anyway).



THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman

THE FIGHTIN' 11TH!

Yassky's got bank

By Moses Jefferson
The Brooklyn Papers

City Councilman David Yassky's bid for a promotion to Congress keeps ka-chinging along.

The Brooklyn Heights Democrat, running to succeed Rep. Major Owens in the central Brooklyn district, rang up another \$377,890 in campaign contributions this quarter, bringing his overall total haul to a stratospheric \$1.23 million.

He now has \$858,000 cash on hand to spend on expensive mailings, radio and TV ads and a massive get-out-the-vote effort on Primary Day, Sept. 12.

His rivals for the seat are far behind in the money race.

Councilwoman Yvette Clarke's contributions surged this quarter, with \$106,313 in contributions, but the Crown Heights lawmaker has only \$43,450 to spend, owing to debt.

State Sen. Carl Andrews (D-Crown Heights) raised almost as much as Clarke this quarter, and has \$233,800 available to spend — not that he thinks he needs it.

"David needs money because he's the least known in the district," Andrews said. "I've been in the district for 25 years."

He added that "all but eight blocks of my [Senate] district is within the 11th," giving him high name-recognition.

Owens trailed the pack, raising \$64,771.

Owens's fundraising figure prompted many to ask the \$64,000 question — would he drop out of the race?

"I'm in it to stay," said Owens, who has less than \$20,000 cash on hand.

"We've put our emphasis on building a strong base of volunteers, who will be there whether we have money or not."

But Andrews dismissed Owens and Clarke's chances. "I don't recall a congressional seat that's been won with less than \$100,000 on hand," he said.

Owens is the son of the retiring congressman.

Vet lawmaker Connor challenges upstart opponent Diamondstone

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

Veteran state Sen. Martin Connor — who hasn't been challenged in years — moved quickly to knock his opponent off the ballot this week, drawing charges that the Brooklyn Heights lawmaker is undermining democracy.

Connor, who has been in office since 1978, filed a general challenge to the candidacy of Community Board 2 member Ken Diamondstone, who is putting up more than \$200,000 of his own money in an effort to unseat the longtime incumbent.

Technically speaking, it was Connor's son, also named Martin, who filed the challenge with the Board of Elections. The challenge allows the Connor campaign to sit through the 6,100 signatures Diamondstone collected in order to get on the ballot.

Only 1,000 signatures are required for a state Senate race, but most candidates collect at least three times that amount because arcane rules make it easy to knock off hundreds of signatures.

Connor said his challenge had nothing to do with the signatures, but with the "constitutional qualifications" of Diamondstone's candidacy.

"I'm not going to pick at his signatures and say, 'This guy didn't dot the T or this guy doesn't live in the district,'" Connor said. "But I do have to make sure he [Diamondstone] is constitutionally qualified to run."

Connor — once the Democrat's top man in the Republican-controlled state Senate, but now a lower-profile figure — remained cryptic, saying merely "Stay tuned."

But later an aide said the campaign was investigating whether Diamondstone has lived in the district for the required amount of time.

Candidates must live in the district a full year prior to Election Day.

Diamondstone's campaign scoffed at the notion that the candidate has not resided at 200 Clinton St. long enough.

"He moved there more than a year ago," said campaign spokesman Matthew Welch. "Martin Connor is playing games with democracy. I'm disappointed, but not surprised, that he

would focus his energies in the courtroom rather than on the needs of his constituents."

Other insiders suggested that Connor has to pull out whatever tools are available, given that he's in a real fight for the first time since facing his last Democratic primary in 1992.

Connor defeated Luis Osorio by a 61-39 percent vote that time, but now he has just \$28,000 in hand. Including his loan, Diamondstone has nearly 10 times that amount to spend.

Connor did raise \$37,000 in the first six months of 2006, but Diamondstone raised \$129,000, which his campaign said proves the depth of his support.

Diamondstone has also picked up the endorsements of some groups that had previously endorsed Connor, such as Lambda Independent Democrats and the Working Families Party.

"Am I worried?" Connor asked. "No. But I am raising money."



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to be aware of the dangers of transporting firewood and other tree materials from established quarantined areas.

If you have questions concerning the movement of firewood, or have spotted an adult Asian longhorned beetle, please call 1-877-STOP-ALB or 1-866-265-0301.

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OUR OPINION

Gargano to B'klyn: Get big

THE MANHATTANIZATION of Brooklyn is now official state policy. That's what Empire State Development Corporation Chairman Charles Gargano said this week, as his agency released a disheartening draft environmental impact statement for Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project.

The 2,000 pages of detailed analysis shows that the development is out of scale with year neighbors, would ensnare large areas in shadows, would tax an already-overburdened traffic and transit system, would create an intimidating superblock, and would require the city to spend untold millions to build schools, provide for more cops and add fire service.

"That's progress, Gargano said. "We are a city of skyscrapers," he said,

tellingly. "We are a city of towers."

From his Albany aerie, Charles Gargano has decided that the very thing that makes Brooklyn unique — its neighborhood scale — is the very thing that must change.

Of course, that's Gargano's modus operandi. His agency cares little for the concerns of locals in the communities it would plunder, choosing to side with the big-time real-estate developers who give so generously to lawmakers' political campaigns.

ESDC, after all, is also in charge of the so-called Brooklyn Bridge Park, which is not a park at all, but an 85-acre boondoggle crafted to enrich select developers. A decade ago, the community had a perfectly good plan for a park — but Gargano & Co. tossed it in favor of a scheme that would throw open the prime waterfront land for luxury condos.

Atlantic Yards is following the same narrative arc. The community around the Prospect Heights rail yards where Ratner would build does indeed want the area developed. Area leaders offered a sensible plan to connect Prospect Heights to Fort Greene with medium-scale housing and open space, but Gargano rejected it in favor of Manhattan skyscrapers that would overpower communities on all sides.

With a population of 15,000-18,000 living on 22 acres, Atlantic Yards would be the most densely populated Census tract in the country.

Yet even in light of his own agency's analysis, Gargano ignores local concern about the project's mammoth scale. We live here — and Gargano does not. Is it too much to ask that he listen to the area's reasonable concerns and downsize Atlantic Yards?

ALL DRAWN OUT



Charles Ratner

LETTERS

Our pols deserve to travel in style

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

To the editor:

If Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) did not travel, he would be doing his constituents a disservice ("For Vito, fact-finding pays well," July 1/8). A commuter congressman has a narrow focus of ideas and culture, like a mouse in a cage, but nothing — not books, photos, videos or visitors — can replace travel.

The actual experience of being there in the moment is incomparable, truly unique.

An example is a trip to San-Diego-Coronado Island. Tens of thousands of visitors enjoy the beautiful climate there, and the resulting monstrous traffic is handled in unique ways. Development there is well handled and water is a year-round concern.

Rep. Fossella and his counterparts should go to San Diego — and they should stay at the five-star Hotel Del Coronado because they deserve it.

Families [that have a member in] public service suffer [because of it]. Experiencing a beautiful place is a way of saying, "Thank you!" for all the missed meals, loneliness, stress, boredom, and frantic moments that politicians and their families face.

Travel and tourism is a good thing. Our politicians deserve it and we deserve it. We get better public servants who are enriched, stimulated and happy at their work.

Louis Fraser, Staten Island

Respect for Mary

To the editor:

As president of the Catholic League, the nation's largest Catholic civil rights organization, I was notified about Gersh Kuntzman's column, "You call this art? Where's the dung?" (June 3).

You call the Blessed Mother, whom Catholics revere, a "grand dame" and state that she looked great splattered with dung. I imagine you fancy yourself very bold. But do you appear to delight in such obscene shots at other religions, or is your scorn reserved for Catholic figures?

It is easy to insult Mary. You can dismiss the protests of the Church faithful, who limit themselves to writing letters or simply not reading your paper. You have no problem casting aside Catholic readers, just as you have no problems alienating veterans by labeling them "killers."

As both a Catholic and a veteran, my opinion must be doubly worthless to you. I'll offer it anyway: If you want to write puerile pieces reveling in sculptures of genitalia and the scatological, go ahead.

But quit knocking the Blessed Mother. It's neither daring nor profound, and your petulant-child schtick will work just as well without it.

William Donohue, New York

To the editor:

It is difficult to express my emotions upon reading Gersh Kuntzman's words in "The Brooklyn Angle." Insensitive, disrespectful, hurtful and mean are a

few words that come to mind.

I try not to judge, but if you have some personal problem with the Catholic Church, it is your personal opinion to express your personal opinion in your paper?

Rev. Kevin Sweeney, Fort Greene

Drivers diss bikers

To the editor:

As a professional cyclist, I have serious problems with Barbara Sheeran's recent letter ("Leave Cars in the Park," June 24).

Being a bike messenger in this city means that almost every three minutes a taxi or limo is trying to run me over. Because of the danger that I encounter daily on the streets, I strongly feel that our city needs a lot more space for joggers, cyclists and pedestrians — space that is off-limits to cars.

Prospect Park and Central Park could become Meccas of safety if cars are totally banned. I am not a member of Transportation Alternatives, but when it comes to Prospect and Central parks, I agree with them — cars out!

And while we're at it, let's put tolls on the East River bridges, too!

Eugene Carrington, Bedford-Stuyvesant

Canal zone homes

To the editor:

I was glad to read that the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation has issued its comprehensive

plan to transform the Gowanus Canal ("Gowanus plan promises big changes," July 1/8). The plan is to be commended for seeking to continue clean-up efforts in and around the canal, and for protecting small businesses and the jobs they provide.

One issue that I didn't read about, however, was that of affordable housing.

The GCCDC plan calls for residential development within the so-called "North District," roughly from Third Street to Baltic Street.

Your newspaper also reported in April that developer Shaya Boymelgreen is planning a two-acre development within that area, tentatively named "Gowanus Village."

In a November, 2004, article on that development, Salvatore Scotto, a founder of the GCCDC, argued that affordable housing for families and senior citizens is desperately needed in our area, and that any re-zoning should promote and create incentives to ensure this. He should be applauded for this statement.

Unfortunately, this important issue has been absent from your articles. The need for affordable housing for seniors and families is staggering. If, as a community, we accept a large-scale re-zoning that rewards developers and allows them to build residential buildings, we should also ensure that affordable housing is included so that we can protect the very people who made Brooklyn what it is today.

Stephen Burzio, Park Slope

The writer is a tenant attorney.

The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn's REAL newspapers

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THE POWER BEHIND EVERYTHING YOU DO

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Rally on!

Thousands gathered at Grand Army Plaza on Sunday to protest Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project. Speeches were lengthy, so we thought it best to provide excerpts of the more-moving moments.

—Ariella Cohen

"Roses are red,
I like William Shatner
but I am opposed,
to the Atlantic Yards project.
Affordable housing,
but eminent domain?
I play a lot of crazies,
but that sounds insane."

Steve Buscemi,
actor and Park Slope resident

"Something that is
making me a little
uneasy is that we have
this Devil, this Devil
by the name of Bruce
Ratner..."

The Rev. Billy,
Performance Artist

"As a person born and bred
in Brooklyn, without too
much bread, this plan is
insulting to poor people
and we deserve better...
Seriously, do the right thing."

Rose Perez,
actress and Brooklyn resident

"I'd rather be on my front
steps playing mandolin
...but for too long
have been complacent
about a development
that could destroy our
neighborhoods."

Dan Zanes, kiddie rock star

"I apologize for being late,
but I was in church and
when I go to church I
get inspired to fight. ARE
YOU FIRED UP?"

Councilwoman Letitia James
(D-Prospect Heights)

TOWERS...

Continued from page 1

vast scale or environmental impact before unanimously certifying the project plan and the DEIS on Tuesday.

But according to the DEIS, the project will bring a school's worth of new children, thousands of new cars and significant noise to the residential streets closest to the project.

In addition, large segments of Fort Greene and Boerum Hill will be left in shadows, views of the historic Williamsburgh Savings Bank building will be lost, more than 600 residents of the site area will be forced to move, subways will be jam-packed, especially on game days (see sidebar, right).

When a reporter asked Gargano if the project could be scaled down to reduce effects on roads, infrastructure and local quality of life, yet still give Ratner a reasonable profit, he replied, "I don't think it can be."

"You aren't going to get developers to build if they lose money," said Gargano, a Park Slope native.

Gargano's off-the-cuff response reflected the state's comfort with the enormity of the project — which would occupy almost eight city blocks, would add 15,000 new residents to the area, and would include a building, Miss Brooklyn, that is 108-feet higher than the Williamsburgh, currently the borough's tallest tower.

Opponents, predictably, said the price tag was too high. "This is the most-expensive arena in the history of the country and clearly the negative impacts outweigh the benefits to the city and state," said City Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights).

But the developer and his state allies still said the project would achieve its goals of both revitalizing an area they say is blighted, adding 2,250 affordable units to Brooklyn's housing market, building seven acres of open space and returning a nifty profit for the builder.

"It's an opportunity for people of all income levels" to make a home in an "underutilized" area, Gargano said. "What is important is the public benefit and the fact that the [city and state] will receive \$1.4 billion for its investment," he said.

The City Council, Borough President Markowitz and state legislators all said they would do a new analysis — after already backing the project.

A spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno (R-Brunswick), who has supported the project, admitted this week that his boss hadn't closely examined the project's finances, but would do so in the future.

Bruno, along with Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhatten) and Governor Paterson, would be asked to approve the project following the pro forma 66-day public comment period that began on Tuesday.

PROTEST...

Continued from page 1

teed a unit in the development — which Ratner is required to do by law — but some said they feel alienated from both sides of the debate.

"This is my life," said one man, who did not attend the Sunday rally. "I am sick of hearing people talk about it who are not really facing any of the consequences."

Jennifer Levy, whose South Brooklyn Legal Services represents five of the tenants, said Ratner's relocation offer for the tenants from talking about any agreements with the developer — a controversial gag order similar to other agreements that have stifled discussion of dozens of real-estate deals Ratner has made within the development's 22 acres.

The Grand Army Plaza rally — which came two days before the state gave Atlantic Yards a preliminary nod — was the largest event DDBB has held since Ratner unveiled his first model at Borough Hall in 2003.

"We think the development is too big," said first-time protester Mary Goldin, a Park Slope resident and real-estate developer.

"I have asthma," added Grace Shannon, a Clinton Hill resident. "Now that I've heard how much pollution this thing is going to bring, I am fighting for my life."

But the throngs of demonstrators — some came from close-by neighborhoods like Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Fort Greene and Clinton Hill — scared off at least one potential supporter, an aporaphobic jogger.

"I don't like crowds, period, not at an arena and not at a demonstration," said the Fort Greene resident who declined to give his name.

July 22, 2006

INSIDE RATNER'S ATLANTIC YARDS STATE OF THE SHOW MASSIVE IMPACT

The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development would "transform a blighted area into a vibrant mixed-use community," with affordable housing, a basketball arena and

seven new acres of greenspace, according to a new state study — but the \$4.2-billion, 16-skyscraper, hotel, residential and office space complex would also put a significant strain on the public school system, already-choked

intersections, aging sewers and hundreds of residents who just want to see the sun.

Below is The Brooklyn Papers' analysis of the project's just-released, 2,000-page Draft Environmental Impact Statement (to

see the entire document, go to <http://www.empire.state.ny.us/AtlanticYards/DEIS.asp> — where it is presented in a fairly obtuse format, so be prepared for hours of downloading. A print version was not made available.

Traffic, transit and pedestrians

The Atlantic Yards project would have a massive effect on car traffic, pedestrian flow and subway service, a new state document revealed this week.

According to the draft environmental impact statement released on Tuesday, 68 intersections around the project's epicenter — Flatbush and Atlantic avenues — would have "significant adverse impacts" from the project.

"Peak hour vehicular traffic through this intersection would increase by four to 15 percent," the report states.

That's bad news, considering that 57 of 87 signalized intersections around the project are already congested at least once a day.

When the project is completed in 2016, the same chokepoints would still be choked, but for many more hours every day.

At Flatbush Avenue and Dean Street, for example, traffic would be deemed bad all day long, as opposed to only from 7-8 pm now. The same is true for the intersection of Fourth and Flatbush avenues, which would clear up only after 10 pm, the study shows.

The DEIS also reveals that:

- The project would add more than 7,300 cars to the streets — and nearly 8,640 subway passengers underground — on days when the relocated New Jersey Nets have a home game. The hotel, residential, commercial and retail components of project will add more than 6,000 cars and more than 31,000 subway riders to the area every weekday.

- Close to 38 percent of Nets fans will arrive by car and 52 percent will arrive by subway or bus — but state analysts also admit that the Transit Authority has not committed to adding trains or buses on game day.

- Only 2.7 percent will walk, the document said.

- Some crosswalks with little congestion would become jam-packed. The corners of Dean Street and Sixth Avenue and Dean Street and Carlton Avenue — currently classified as "unrestricted" would fall to "severely restricted," to use the state's jargon.

- Every subway in Brooklyn would carry hundreds of more passengers during rush hour.

The congestion will be most acute on Brooklyn-bound trains during the evening rush. Each sardine can on the 2, 3, 4 and D lines would have to hold roughly four more passengers.

State planners say such traffic and transit impacts will be fixed by changing the timing of many stoplights, implementing some parking restrictions, repainting some streets to eliminate or create turn lanes, shuttling basketball fans to the arena from remote parking lots, underwriting transit discounts for Nets ticket-holders, and adding NYPD officers to keep traffic moving.

The cost of the last three mitigations would be passed along to Ratner, the document said.

Even with the mitigations, 39 intersections will still have significant congestion at some point during the day, and two subway corridors will experience a "complete breakdown in traffic flow" from 7-8 pm.

—Kuntzman

Irreparable adverse impacts

Some impacts of the Atlantic Yards mega-project simply can not be fixed while still allowing Bruce Ratner to make a reasonable profit and build affordable housing — but the developer will buy air-conditioners for everyone who wants one, state documents reveal.

"Adverse impacts would remain in the areas of cultural resources, urban design, shadows, traffic, noise and construction [that] cannot be mitigated while still allowing the project to meet its stated purpose and needs," the state's draft environmental impact statement said.

The irreparable harm consists of:

- The demolition of the Ward Branch Bakery, on Pacific Street between Carlton and Vanderbilt avenues, and the former Long Island Rail Road stables on Atlantic Avenue between Sixth and Carlton avenues.

- The DEIS called the demolition of these 100-year-old structures "a significant adverse impact on historic resources," but concluded that retaining the structures would "constrain the goals" of Ratner's "master plan."

- Obstructed views of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank tower, which the state calls the "most visible historic structure in Brooklyn since its construction" in 1929.

The Municipal Art Society had recommended shifting



some of Ratner's skyscrapers to slightly different locations — and the state admitted that such rejiggering could do the trick.

"To avoid significant adverse impacts on views... the project site would need to avoid the construction of tall buildings on Flatbush Avenue," the study said, before dismissing the notion as incompatible with "the project's goals."

- "Significant noise" on Dean Street between Flatbush and Vanderbilt avenues. But the good news is that Bruce Ratner will buy everyone in the area extra-thick windows and air-conditioners, the document reveals.

Operators are not yet standing by, but state officials are urging everyone to take advantage of the generous offer: "[If] owners elect not to take advantage... the proposed project would have unmitigated significant [noise] impacts."

- Massive shadows. But, again, reducing the height of some buildings would be "inconsistent with the goal to establish a high-density, mixed-use project."

- Intense traffic. By the time the project is fully built in 2016, 68 of the already-congested 93 intersections studied by state planners would see worse traffic.

The document says the number could drop to 39 intersections — but only with physical improvements to existing infrastructure, "demand management strategies," cops on overtime to help keep traffic moving, improved transit and better signals — only some of which, by the way, would be paid for by Bruce Ratner.

—Gersh Kuntzman

Shadows

The 16 towers of the Atlantic Yards project will enshroud the playground at the Atlantic Terminal Houses in Fort Greene in shadows all day, every day, during the winter, and place the northern portion of Prospect Heights in the same gloom every morning from now on — all year long, according to the state study released this week.

As The Brooklyn Papers reported in June, Bruce Ratner's skyscrapers will cast shadows on the area bordered by DeKalb Avenue, Douglass Street, Grand Avenue and Bond Street.

The shadows would be at their

worst during the cold winter months.

The study also showed that:

- By 2016, when the proposed Atlantic Yards would be fully built out, the lawn of the Atlantic Terminal will also be in shadows from 8:30 am to 4:29 pm in the early spring.

- That's a particular irony, considering Ratner also built that site.

- The brand-new South Oxford Park in Fort Greene will spend several hours a day in shadows most of the year.

The state study offered little mitigation for the shadow impacts.

—Dana Rubinstein

Socio-economic impacts

Atlantic Yards probably won't exacerbate the gentrification that's already taking place in Prospect Heights and Fort Greene, according to a new state report on the impact of the project on local socioeconomic conditions.

State planners made that conclusion based on Census data showing that the number of "at-risk" households in the area has been declining for years before Bruce Ratner dreamed up Atlantic Yards.

The project would displace an estimated 410 residents and 27 businesses from its 22-acre footprint, plus the residents of 144 homes already purchased by the developer.

And there could be more displacement just outside the footprint.

The state's draft environmental impact statement admits that replacing the existing LIRR yards with a landscape of curvy, Fort Greely-designed buildings could inflate area land values, leading to permanent displacement of some nearby residents.

"Further analysis is needed to fully address the indirect displacement concern," the document said.

And although the DEIS frequently calls the Prospect Heights development site "blighted," the document does admit that the neighborhood ranks among the wealthiest near the proposed basketball arena that is Atlantic Yards' centerpiece.

The median income in the supposedly blighted neighborhood is \$43,333 — just behind Park Slope and Boerum Hill.

—Ariella Cohen

Facilities and infrastructure

The ESDC says that Bruce Ratner's "honesty project" will not significantly affect Brooklyn's existing infrastructure — but its own documents show that the project would cause overcrowded schools, create new challenges to police and fire coverage, and cause more sewage to flow into the East River.

By the time the 6,860-unit project is completed in 2016, nearby elementary schools would surge to 32 percent overcapacity, thanks to 1,873 new, elementary-age children, according to the Atlantic Yards draft environmental impact statement released this week.

In all, the project would put 3,020 extra students into the public school system.

The state proposes fixing the problem by building a new school within Atlantic Yards project.



But don't bet on it, according to the document.

"Building 5 [in Atlantic Yards] has been identified as a possible location for a school," the document said.

"But there has been no commitment by the Department of Education at this time."

In other nuts-and-bolts issues:

- The East River would see 700,000 more gallons of overflow a year, thanks to further stresses on the city's aging sewer system.

At the same time, the Gowanus Canal, which is inundated with raw sewage during heavy rainfall, would actually experience an 1.8-million-gallon decrease in sewer overflows, thanks to an innovative water-retention feature of Atlantic Yards, as well as proposed infrastructure improvements paid for by the city.

- The city would have to provide more cops and firefighters to serve the development's anticipated 14,000

residents.

NYPD would continue to evaluate its staffing needs and assign personnel based on ... demographics, calls for service, and crime conditions," the

DEIS stated.

Even the biggest optimist at the Empire State Development Corporation would have to admit that there will be crime at Atlantic Yards.

—Rubinstein

Make yourself heard

Set your calendars — the state's public hearing on the Atlantic Yards Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be on Wednesday, Aug. 23.

In advance of the sure-to-be-packed meeting, the Empire State Development Corporation is encouraging the public to pick up the DEIS (which can be viewed, with some difficulty, at <http://www.empire.state.ny.us/AtlanticYards/DEIS.asp>) — at your local library.

Written comments may be

emailed to atlanticyards@empire.state.ny.us or snail-mailed to Maria Mooney, ESDC, 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Feel free to send a copy to Newspapers@BrooklynPapers.com, so we know what's on your mind, too.

The agency claims written comments, which are due by Sept. 22, "will be afforded the same weight as oral testimony" at the public hearing, which will take place at 4:30 at NYC Technical College, 285 Jay St.

Culture, neighborhood character, urban design

New York State planners admitted that the 16-skyscrapers of the Atlantic Yards project are significantly larger than the surrounding neighborhoods — but concluded that the project's size is a good thing.

"The proposed project would change the character of the project site, and for the better," the state's draft environmental impact statement said.

"The new taller buildings of the proposed project would have a positive effect by serving as new wayfinders in the Brooklyn skyline."

Atlantic Yards, the document said, would serve as a "gateway" linking Prospect Heights, Fort Greene, Boerum Hill and Park Slope, long divided by the "blighted" LIRR yard near the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

But the document was somewhat contradictory on that claim, saying that adverse impacts from the project's scale, design and traffic would merely be "background conditions" in those four neighborhoods.

It is unclear how a "gateway" project at the confluence of four neighborhoods can also be in the "background" of each one at the same time.

The DEIS also indicated that:

- The project would "be of a larger scale and height than the buildings located in the immediately surrounding historic districts, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Fort Greene, and Prospect Heights historic district."

Flashy signs affixed to the proposed basketball arena would be unavoidable "along the Atlantic and Flatbush Avenue corridors." And the signs will be "brighter on event nights."

- Dean Street "would form a quiet, mixed-use commercial street to an active street with a mix of uses."

- Noise — which is already the single-biggest complaint of city residents — would increase significantly in some surrounding areas, going from

"marginally acceptable" to "marginally unacceptable."

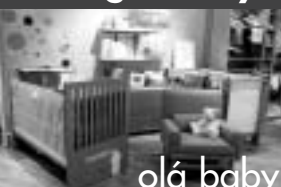
On the plus side, Atlantic Yards would:

- Create landscaped greenspace that would "allow people to cross through the site and would connect, for the first time in a century, the neighborhoods north of Atlantic Avenue with Prospect Heights, to the south."

- Include a glass-walled public space called the Urban Room, which would include café kiosks, new subway access and sitting areas. A top it would be a 620-foot tower — Brooklyn's tallest.

—Kuntzman

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The 9-year-old's on on her own in Slope

SMARTMOM THINKS that the Oh So Feisty One, at age 9, is old enough to walk the corner and cross the street.

In the eyes of some Park Slope moms, Smartmom is

doing the right thing in developing her daughter's sense of independence.

In other Park Slope eyes, Smartmom is guilty of child abuse.

It all started when OSFO's best friend, Crystal, was allowed to walk to OSFO's house unaccompanied. That meant crossing one-way Second Street. Alone. She had to call home as soon as she arrived, of course, but she made it.

After witnessing such success, OSFO began clamoring to go to Crystal's house all by herself.

Smartmom wasn't sure her

Upper West Side of Manhattan, Smartmom was crossing many blocks — including two-way streets — to get to her second-grade class. Two years later, she was taking city buses and subways — by herself.

Some would say it was a different city than. And it was. In the 1970s, crime was rampant, garbage was everywhere, and filthy streets (no Pooper Scooper Law, remember?) were filled with crazy people released from mental hospitals.

Sure, it was scary. But for Smartmom's smart mom, it was all part of teacher her

ter pistols could lead to gang violence, after all).

There's no denying that the Slope has its dangers. Fifteen-year-old Teen Spirit was mugged a couple of months ago on Eighth Avenue and Third Street. A group of kids surrounded him and asked for his iPod. He calmly gave it to them and they let him go.

He did the right thing, but it could have been a lot worse. What if the kids wanted to beat him up?

When Smartmom and Hep-cat grilled Teen Spirit about the incident, they asked what the boys looked like, careful not to blurt out anything vaguely racist (or racial).

The thought of the mugging gives Smartmom chills. But she's glad that her first mugging was relatively easy. He's crossed that essential milestone and maybe it will make him more alert on the street in the long run.

Luckily, that incident didn't crimp Teen Spirit's independent style. He takes the subway to school every day, to concerts in Manhattan, to Times Square to see movies.

Times Square? The way Smartmom sees it, why grow up in New York City if you can't be a real city kid? Move to the suburbs if you want safe.

You can't teach your children to live their lives in fear. And you can't hover over them forever. They need to learn the law of the streets: be alert, check to see if anyone is following you, duck into a store or apartment building if you feel nervous, find an adult or a cop if something happens. Learning to survive in the city is not an art, it's a craft. And you've got to start somewhere.

Crossing the street to Crystal's house is probably as good a place as any.

Louise Crawford also runs the Web site "Only the Blog Knos Brooklyn."

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

daughter about life in the city (including how to deal with her bus pass getting stolen on a regular basis).

So, where were Smartmom's — and other kids' — parents? Maybe they were too distracted by the Sexual Revolution to accompany their kids around town. More likely, they just let their kids go it alone — like their parents did, and their parents' parents did.

THE CITY HAS COME a long way since "Ford to City: Drop Dead!" yet city parents are more protective than ever. Back when it was truly treacherous, those 1970s parents were laissez-faire about sending their kids into the urban jungle.

But now? Forget it. Most Slope kids under age 12 are not allowed out alone at all. Parents are always in the picture when the kids are riding their bikes, making chalk drawings, playing hopscotch or squirting water pistols at each other (wa-

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STARSCAPES

THE BATTLE FOR 4TH AVENUE

It's a stretch, but some want to protect its 'character'

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

"Kill the 12-story monster," read a hand-painted sign sprouting up amid weeds and abandoned toys in a lot on Fourth Avenue and 12th Street.

"Monster" referred to a residential tower destined for another vacant lot across the street. It also advertised a June 13 meeting, which attracted 81 residents troubled about the pace of development.

The Park Slope South Community — an incipient group borne from the meeting — is running the barricades in what has become Brooklyn's latest divisive battle: one faction wants to develop a neighborhood, another unit to protect that neighborhood's "character."

Both sides can't win, can they?

Tall buildings are rising on Fourth Avenue thanks to the 2003 rezoning of Park Slope, which protected low-rise residential streets from developers' plans, while turning commercial thoroughfares, particularly Fourth Avenue between Union and 15th streets, into blank canvases for redevelopment.

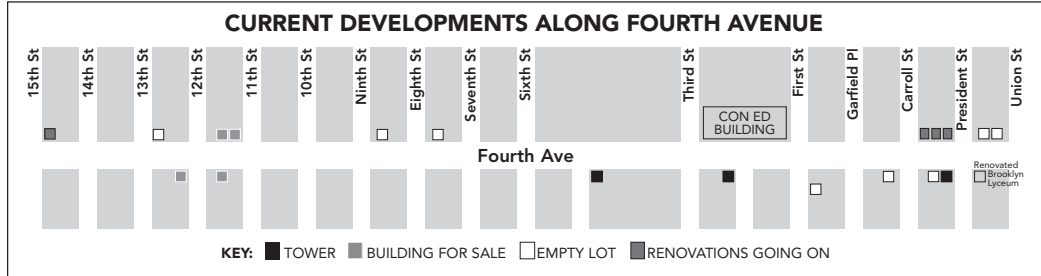
The zoning regulations now allow developers to build as high as 120 feet and to extend those buildings 100 feet down side streets.

The more-permissive zoning has already spurred a flurry of development. Now Fourth Avenue — once a place to get your flat fixed — aspires to become a true part of gentrified Park Slope.

"Any piece of land that can be gotten there and developed is being bought up," said Roslyn Huebner, a longtime real-estate broker in the neighborhood.

But with growth comes growing pains. And what is a boon for some — apartment buyers and the developers who court them — is a tragedy for others.

Lillian Striano lives within 100 feet of Fourth Avenue on



11th Street, a block of meticulously maintained rowhouses. A number of them date to the late 1800s and have been in the same family for generations.

While many of her neighbors have sold their houses to developers for astronomical profits, Striano is holding onto her home of 37 years.

Striano, 83, grew up around the corner. Her husband Sal, to whom she's been married for 64 years, was born down the block.

"I thought our next stop would be Green-Wood Cemetery," said Striano. "I never thought I'd be asked to move."

But she was. Striano says she's been repeatedly pressured by developer Bailing Yang to sell.

Yang has already snatched up the houses on either side of Striano and has bought properties around the corner on Fourth Avenue, including the Laundromat.

"I don't care what you offer me," said Striano. "I want my house."

The offers are getting harder and harder to refuse. The three-story house next door sold for \$860,000 in April, and the two-story house

on the other side supposedly sold for even more.

And that's peanuts compared to the price tags on some nearby homes.

A three-story building at 488 Fourth Ave. that sold last October for \$1.38 million is now selling for \$2.1 million.

Across the street, a four-story building is selling for \$2.15 million. Tellingly, both are listed by Massey Knakal — the real-estate behemoth — as "development sites."

A development site is "a place where you would build a new building," said Massey Knakal agent Kenneth Freeman. "The Fourth Avenue market right now has tremendous upside. It's not there yet, but I have every reason to believe it will be there."

Freeman says that the condos being built up and down Fourth Avenue offer attractive amenities to the flood of people coursing into Brooklyn — the well-regarded PS 321, an easy commute to Manhattan, and relative proximity to Prospect Park.

He's not alone. "Fourth Avenue is a nice street," said Yang. "It has an island in the middle, and it can have trees. It can become like Park Avenue of Manhattan."



Construction of a new apartment tower on Fourth Avenue.

Neither Yang nor developer Isaac Katan wants to let the opportunity pass. Katan has 200 units under construction in towers at Fifth and Second streets — and in the next five months, he'll start excavation on another 200.

In total, there are 12 new buildings rising between Union and 15th streets, according to Community Board 6 District Manager Craig Hammerman. Most notably, there are two Shaya Boyeml green towers going up — one near the Old Stone House at Fourth Street and another nearby.

It's not just the condos and coop market that's booming. Urban View Realty was showing two, two-bedroom rentals on Fourth Avenue for \$2,000 a piece.

"These went in a week or so fast," said Olivia Prudhomme, an agent. The neighborhood's so hot that some apartments are rented the same day they are listed.

And with new residents, comes retail.

"[Now] you can charge up to \$60 a foot on Fourth Avenue for retail," marveled Katan.

"Nobody was thinking or dreaming a few years ago to get even \$30 a foot," he added.

Retailers on Seventh Avenue — a much more established and pedestrian-friendly commercial sector — pay upwards of \$75 per square foot.

"Fourth Avenue would appear to be coming of age," said Ken Adams, president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. "It's certainly not a retail backwater anymore."

Development in Park Slope has been proceeding in fits and starts for years.

In the early 1990s, Park Slope north of Union Street was rezoned to protect the character of the neighborhood.

The success of that rezoning led its 2003 extension south to 15th Street.

Fourth Avenue — a wide street well-served by public transportation — was reclassified as the "Park Avenue of Brooklyn."

"Fourth Avenue [is seen] as a safety valve," said Hammerman. "Some of the market pressures on the rest of neighborhood can be released onto a wide street that could better support housing density."

"At the time, one would have been hard-pressed to find any opponents to the plan," he added.

Development — and overdevelopment — have become the issue of the day in Brooklyn, and given the statistics, it's no surprise.

Forty-two percent of New Yorkers earn less than \$32,000 a year. In 2002, they had access to 1.2 million rental units. By 2005, the number was down to 985,000 units, according to an NYU study, which also concluded that rents have increased 8 percent citywide in just three years.

Further exacerbating the housing crunch on Fourth Avenue is the fact that affordable housing provisions were not included in the 2003 rezoning.

Development along Fourth Avenue may be unavoidable, but residents are taking a stand.

Striano and another neighbor's refusal to sell their houses makes it impossible for Yang to carry out her plan on Fourth Avenue.

"For a while I was quite positive I was doing something," said Yang. "But there have been some changes of plans."

Striano has held off the de-

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Lights! Camera! Action!

Cablecast Your Own TV Show on BCAT for FREE

by J.M. Rivera

Maybe you're one of the thousands with an idea for a TV show kicking around in your head. Or maybe you're thinking of a career change and want to pick up new skills. Or perhaps you've watched a television show and thought "I could do better." If you're a Brooklyn resident or work for a Brooklyn-based organization or business, you can fulfill life-long dreams by attending a free orientation at BCAT/Brooklyn Community Access Television, Brooklyn's public access television station, where you'll learn how you can cablecast your own show on BCAT for little or no money. More information is available at www.bcat.tv/bcat.

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By Dana Rubinstein
and Sara Vogel
The Brooklyn Papers

68th Precinct

Four firearms are now in criminal hands after a Dyker Heights man's arsenal was raided on July 12. It was late afternoon when the 67th Street resident discovered that someone had broken into his basement and stolen his Remington .30-caliber bolt-action rifle, an Ithaca hammerless 12-gauge shotgun, a British .303 bolt-action seven-shot rifle, and a J. Stevens Co. 22-gauge single-action rifle.

Charles Saccardi, 76, inherited the guns from his father in the 1970s — they haven't been used since.

"The only reason I keep them is they're sentimental," said Saccardi. "I wouldn't buy a gun today. You gotta be crazy. You need gun control. You gotta have it."

It's not clear who carried out the \$800 weapons grab or what they sought to do with the stolen firearms, but the Saccardi told cops that two younger women who had been helping him out might have stolen keys to the cellar of the house, which is between 11th and 12th avenues.

No arrests have been made.

Teaming up

Two aspiring robbers were arrested on July 12 after they targeted the wrong family. After a late night out, an 18-year-old returned to his apartment building on 11th Avenue between 67th and 68th streets, when someone grabbed his neck from behind and demanded, "Give me everything you got!"

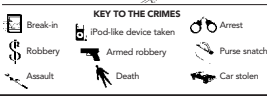
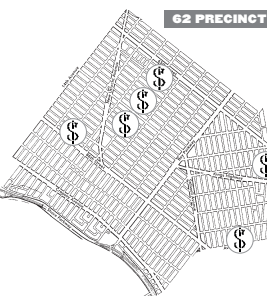
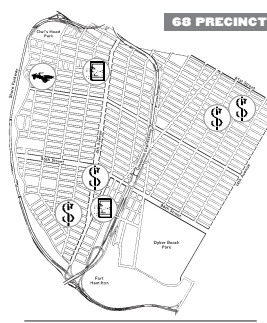
When the victim demurred, he received a swift punch to the face and his silver cross necklace was torn from his neck. The victim fought back, and the noisy altercation reached the ears of his 38-year-old father, who came down to the lobby. Upon his appearance, the two assailants fled to a nearby subway station, the father and son in hot pursuit.

In the station, one of the robbers picked up a glass bottle, broke off the end, and lunged at the father, lacerating his left forearm.

The father fought back, and the brothers attracted the attention of a nearby cop.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WHERE CRIMES TOOK PLACE



The father and son were taken to Lutheran Medical Center in Sunset Park, and the two robbers to Coney Island Hospital.

Bedroom Raid

Thieves who broke into a home on 72nd Street between Third and Fourth avenues on July 13 raided the master bedroom and carted away \$32,405 worth of jewelry.

The well-adorned couple's biggest losses included a \$4,500 Breitling watch, a \$3,000 Rolex, a \$3,000 set of snakehead bangle bracelets, a gold coin necklace-and-bracelet

set worth \$6,500, a \$3,400 diamond and white gold tennis necklace, and a \$500 14-karat gold Allah medallion.

No arrests were made.

Doors off

A 29-year-old man who had parked his Sahara Jeep in front of his house on Narrows Avenue and 72nd Street on July 12 returned to his car the next day to find that the Jeep was missing some very important appendages — its doors.

The two doors are worth an estimated \$3,000. No arrests have been made.

Deli robbed

Would you like money with that?

A deli owner was opening shop at 6:15 am on July 12 when he noticed an open window on the side of his establishment, at 92nd Street and Gelsen Avenue.

Upon further inspection, the unfortunate 35-year-old proprietor discovered that he had been robbed of \$2,000. No arrests have been made.

Purse snatched

A Bay Ridge woman got her purse snatched while shopping at a popular supermarket on Third Avenue and 54th Street on the evening of July 11.

The 29-year-old woman discovered her handbag was missing from her shopping cart when she went to the checkout line.

The victim — clearly a bit of a shopaholic — lost her Macy's VISA card, her Target VISA card, \$150 in cash, a cellphone, two HSBC cards, and a checkbook.

Gym rat

He was trying to work out, but he got worked over instead.

A 17-year-old was getting in shape at a popular gym on Fourth Avenue and 87th Street when someone broke into his locker and stole his Fossil wallet, which held his driver's license and debit card.

62th Precinct

Home invasion

A band of armed thieves broke into a second-floor apartment on West Eighth Street tied up two victims, ransacked the place, and ran off with \$3,200, a cellphone and a credit card.

The five perpetrators invaded the home, which is near Avenue U, on the sweltering July 17 night wearing gloves and black stockings over their heads.

They bargued through the un-

locked door, tied up two victims with plastic zip ties, and then kicked down the door of the bedroom, where a 20-year-old man was sleeping.

Two masked men held the three victims at gunpoint while the others rifled through the residents' property. The thieves fled in a car with the goods, according to one witness.

Stroller scheme

Fortunately, they are not stealing babies, but thieves have been looting baby strollers.

One of the latest in the string of stroller robberies happened when a 29-year-old woman left her purse dangling on her baby carriage at a Laundromat on McDonald Avenue near Quentian Road, on July 14. She turned to the washing machines to do her laundry when she turned back, her purse was gone.

The stealthy perpetrator left no trace, and police have no leads.

Unchained heart

A lovers' quarrel turned violent when a 19-year-old man snatched the chain from around the neck of his 17-year-old girlfriend at 6 pm on July 12 and bruised her chest in the process.

He fled from the girl's home on 67th Street, near 18th Avenue, and police have yet to apprehend him.

Bike bully

A 12-year-old boy was sitting on his bicycle on 72nd Street near 18th Avenue when a bully shoved him to the ground, gave him a black eye, and ran off with the bike.

Police escorted the boy through the neighborhood to search for the bike-stealer, but he was not found.

Own front yard

An 85-year-old woman standing in her 76th Street driveway handed over her purse to a thief who demanded it at 1:15 pm on July 14.

The man got \$80 in the heist, which took place near 18th Avenue.

The woman called cops, who searched the neighborhood, but she was not found.

Pat down

Two men dragged a 27-year-old man walking down 8th Street near 16th avenue at 4 am on July 14, stealing his cellphone and wallet.

The muggers then fled with the goods, which included the man's credit card and Green Card.

Lights! Camera! Action!

Cablecast Your Own TV Show on BCAT for FREE

by J.M. Rivera

Maybe you're one of the thousands with an idea for a TV show kicking around in your head. Or maybe you're thinking of a career change and want to pick up new skills. Or perhaps you've watched a television show and thought "I could do better." If you're a Brooklyn resident or work for a Brooklyn-based organization or business, you can fulfill life-long dreams by attending a free orientation at BCAT Brooklyn Community Access Television, Brooklyn's public access television station, where you'll learn how you can cablecast your own show on BCAT for little or no money. More information is available at www.bcat.tv/bcat.

Housed in the former Strand Theater building, on the corner of Fulton Street and Rockwell Place, BCAT trains hundreds of Brooklyn residents and employees in television production at state-of-the-art facilities; offers free access to equipment; and airs community-produced segments, as well as a 24-hour bulletin board announcing Brooklyn events and available services, on four public access cable television channels. On Time Warner Cable these are channels 34, 35, 56, and 57; on Cablevision, 67, 68, 69, and 70. The programs are also streamed live online at www.bcat.tv/bcat.

If you have your own equipment, you have until July 28 to apply for a free weekly or monthly time slot for the spring season, which runs from the end of September through December. After which, new applications are accepted quarterly. You'll need to complete an application form and bring it to BCAT, along with a current utility bill that shows proof of Brooklyn residency; a government-issued photo ID; and finished tapes — four if you're applying for a weekly show; one if you're applying for a monthly show. (One-time specials can be submitted throughout the year.)

No equipment? The BCAT Media Center has everything you need to produce your own show — from hand-held video cameras to studio cameras equipped with teleprompters to editing equipment — and in a few short weeks, you can gain the basic knowledge needed to operate the equipment to produce your own show.

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Nellie Bly now an 'Adventure'



Thomas and Christopher Auletta at Bensonhurst's Adventures Amusement Park, which is open for business.

By Sara Vogel

for The Brooklyn Papers

Kids took their first rides on the merry-go-round at Bensonhurst's Adventures Amusement Park last weekend — formerly known as Nellie Bly Fun Center — which finally opened for the busy summer season on July 15. Red tape — and some nar-

mal construction delays — kept the park's gates closed to out-of-school kids and their parents up to this point.

Mayor Bloomberg promised area residents at a recent meeting that Bensonhurst would have its kiddie playground back by mid-July.

And sure enough, the park did get some highly placed help in nudging the Parks Department and other city agencies to

grant the new owner the permits he needed — before all the kids went back to school.

Thomas Auletta, 7, and his brother Christopher, 5, flew "round and round on their Wilbur and Orville-style planes,

one of the park's new rides. They seemed to be having a good time, but their father wasn't all that impressed.

"They were just at Great Adventure, so this is nothing!" he said.

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STEVE

Continued from page 2

"Ultimately, the DCCC will come on board."

But political consultants say what's even more important than a war chest is the ability to stand out amid the onslaught of campaigns this year.

"The money is important, but it's not the be-all and end-all of politics," said political consultant Bob Liff.

"You're trying to break through the clutter," he added. "You have the governor's and attorney general's races, and, of course, Hillary's race. And those are sucking up a lot of the oxygen."

For what it's worth, Harrison is putting a brave face on a bad situation.

"Fossella has a lot of money, and I would imagine he's going to need every dime of it," he said.

On the other hand, the short-fall in funding for Harrison is a boon for Fossella's scandal-ridden campaign. He's raised nearly \$1.2 million since this election cycle began.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 22, 2006



Splash

Defunct McCarren Pool is the unlikely venue for concert series

By Eleazar Gorenstein
for The Brooklyn Papers

This summer, Brooklynites will again be diving into the old McCarren Park Pool for fun, but they won't be getting wet.

The Williamsburg pool, which was originally built in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration, held just under 7,000 people in its heyday. It was shut down in 1984 due to its derelict condition, according to Parks Department spokesman Phil Abramson. But now, the city of New York is looking to restore the 50,000-square-foot giant back to its natural aquatic state.

To start the process, the pool will play host to a series of concerts this summer, all organized by promoter Live Nation, to raise awareness of the McCarren Park Pool. The music series will begin July 29 with British indie rock band Bloc Party, performing with the Secret Machines and Mew.

"There has been an interest by many in the community and many city officials in restoring the pool," said Abramson. "But to do that, we need funds, so that we can make the area safe for public access."

The required funds that the city would need to restore the pool would likely exceed \$40 million. The pool walls are covered in graffiti, there are broken bricks and chipped paint around the pavilion, and greenery has overtaken the pool floor, Abramson said.

Last year, choreographer Noemie Lafance persuaded the Parks Department to let her

put on a dance performance at the pool. The department believed that public interest in the pool would be the first step in gaining the necessary awareness for donations to raise money for its repair.

In return for the privilege of hosting performances at the pool, two groups donated a total of \$250,000 to the Parks department to renovate the site for short-term use of the venue. Lafance's dance company gave \$50,000, and Live Nation gave \$200,000, and earned the right to host 10 performances this summer. They chose to host seven.

Following the opening performance on July 29, there will be more indie rock performances on Aug. 11 with Williamsburg's own Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Sonic Youth and Blood on the Wall, while on Aug. 12 the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Sonic Youth will be joined by Awesome Color.

The fourth performance in the series will be on Aug. 17, when the indie folk group Iron and Wine will perform, with special guest Low. Aug. 23 will feature indie group The Shins with J. Mascis, and Aug. 24 will have indie country singer Neko Case perform along with Joanna Newsom and Martha Wainwright.

The series will conclude on Sept. 9 with jam band Gov't Mule with special guest Wolfmother and Two Gallants.

"The whole goal of this is to have the pool become a pool again," said Sam Kinken, vice president of clubs and theaters for Live Nation. "I've lived in Williamsburg for five

NIGHTLIFE

Live Nation will present seven shows at McCarren Park Pool (at Lotman Street, Driggs Avenue and Bayard Street in Williamsburg) beginning July 29. Tickets for the July 29 show, with Bloc Party, Secret Machines and Mew, are \$35. Doors open at 5 p.m.

The Aug. 11 and 12 shows, featuring Sonic Youth and Yeah Yeah Yeahs will also include Blood on the Wall on Aug. 11 and Awesome Color on Aug. 12. Advance tickets are \$36 and \$41 on the day of the show. Doors open at 5 p.m.

On Aug. 17, Iron & Wine and Low will perform. Advance tickets are \$33.50 and \$36 on the day of the show. Doors open at 5 p.m.

On Aug. 23, The Shins with J. Mascis will perform. Advance tickets are \$36 and \$41 on the day of the show. Doors open at 5 p.m.

On Aug. 24, Neko Case will perform with Joanna Newsom and Martha Wainwright. Advance tickets are \$33.50 and \$36 on the day of the show. Doors open at 5 p.m.

On Sept. 9, Gov't Mule, Wolfmother and Two Gallants perform. Advance tickets are \$37.50 and \$40 on the day of the show. Doors open at 4 p.m.

All tickets are general admission, standing room only. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets and charge-by-phone (212) 677-1771. For information, call (212) 777-6800 or (212) 777-1224, or visit the Web sites: www.ticketmaster.com and www.livenation.com.

Making waves: Live Nation presents seven concerts in Williamsburg's McCarren Park Pool, beginning with Bloc Party (above left) on July 29 and ending with Gov't Mule (above right) on Sept. 9.

the pool to the pool's basin. The entire perimeter of the McCarren Park Pool looks like a castle, according to Kinken.

"It's fort-like from the outside," he said. On the way inside, spectators will pass under a large brick arch and see the ground level stage.

"That's why this makes so much sense," Kinken said. "The stage is already set up, and the pool is so big it will appear like you are just watching a show at a regular concert venue. Out of all of the potential places in the city to start something like this in the last 10 years, this has garnered more interest than any of them, to get this place back on its feet."

However, in spite of the seemingly perfect concert setting and overwhelming desire by city officials and the community to restore the pool, there has been some concern about the Live Nation concert series.

"People are upset about this, and Live Nation has drawn a lot of criticism," Kinken said. "A lot of people are just afraid of change. Hopefully, people will be able to see that this is something good that hasn't been done before. When's the last time you heard someone asking you to see a show in a pool? I hope they'll realize that it's for a good cause in the end."

GO Brooklyn recently talked to the 60-year-old "Animal House" and "Stripes" director about his latest flick, a romantic comedy about Matt, a nice, normal New Yorker (Luke Wilson), who incurs the wrath of his gorgeous, super-powered lover, G-Girl (Uma Thurman), when he tries to break up with her because she is too needy and possessive.

"Scary Movie" alum Anna Faris plays Matt's new love interest, while "The Office" star Rainn Wilson plays his creepy best friend and British comedian Eddie Izzard plays G-Girl's nemesis.

"I wanted to do a romantic comedy and, you know, it's really hard to do an original one, to find some new twist on the girl and boy story," Reitman explained. "This has all the elements of a classic romantic comedy; except it has one sci-fi element, and that's that one character has these special powers and necessarily all it's cracked up to be.

See SUPER on page 12

MUSIC

Summer lovin'

Julio Iglesias is inviting Brooklynites to spend a romantic evening with him on the beach. The Grammy award winner will perform "Enjoy the Romance" at Coney Island's Assef Levy Seaside Park on July 27 as part of the 28th annual Seaside Summer Concert Series.



Fans might hear selections from Iglesias's new album, "Romantic Classics," which is due out in stores Sept. 19. The album includes Iglesias's versions of classic 1960s, '70s and '80s love songs by artists like Willie Nelson, George Michael and the Bee Gees.

The Seaside Summer Concert Series is hosted by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz.

"Enjoy the Romance: An Evening with Julio Iglesias" begins at 7:30 p.m. on July 27 at Assef Levy Park (West Fifth Street and Surf Avenue in Coney Island). This performance is free and open to the public. For more information, call (718) 469-1912 or visit www.brooklynconcerts.com.

— Jovana Rizzo

BOOKS

Wordplay

One of the Brooklyn Public Library's current exhibitions features work by a designer who literally makes art from words.

And while that artist's name may not be a household word, the name of the novelist whom he has collaborated with, Dan Brown, certainly is. In fact, Brown named his "Da Vinci Code" character, Robert Langdon, for John Langdon, who designed "ambigrams" for Brown's previous novel, "Angels & Demons." The Central Library is now showing those ambigrams — words that can be read from multiple vantage points — that he designed for "Angels & Demons." These words are characterized by 180-degree rotational symmetry. They "read the same when turned upside down," explains Langdon.

Also on display are ambigrams that Langdon created for the opening credits of "The Da Vinci Code" (pictured), which were not used in the film. These designs, known as totem ambigrams, are vertical in structure and have bilateral symmetry.

"The Langdons in Dan Brown's novels: Words in Pop Fiction" is on display now through Aug. 12 in the Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (in the balcony cases on the second floor) in Grand Army Plaza. For more information, including library hours, call (718) 230-2100 or visit the Web site www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

— Lisa J. Curtis

CINEMA

Scary movie

If you think of Patrick Lussier's film, "Dracula 2000," or Francis Ford Coppola's 1992 "Bram Stoker's Dracula" when you hear the word "vampire," it's time you got a horror movie history lesson. For scary movie buffs, Tod Browning's 1931 classic "Dracula" — starring Bela Lugosi — is must-see home-work. And Celebrate Brooklyn is offering an opportunity to see the film on its big screen on July 27.

On Thursday, the film will be accompanied by the Kronos Quartet, which will perform Philip Glass's score live. (While Browning's film is a "talkie," it was not set to music.) Based on Bram Stoker's novel, Browning's version brings to life all of those familiar kooky characters: Mina Harker (Helen Chandler), Lucy Weston (Frances Dade), Renfield (Dwight Frye) and Professor Van Helsing (Edward Van Sloan).

The screening of "Dracula" will be preceded by music from Slavic Soul Party.

Celebrate Brooklyn presents "Dracula," with Philip Glass's score performed live by the Kronos Quartet, on July 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Prospect Park band shell (Ninth Street at Prospect Park West in Park Slope). Suggested donation is \$3. For more information, call (718) 855-7882 ext. 45 or visit the Web site www.celebratebrooklyn.org.

— LIC



Ivan the great: Director Ivan Reitman (left) and actor Luke Wilson on the set of "My Super Ex-Girlfriend."

King of comedy

Ivan Reitman shoots 'My Super Ex-Girlfriend' in Brooklyn studios

By Karen Butler
for The Brooklyn Papers

Can a superhero have a healthy, happy relationship with a mere mortal? And, if it doesn't work out, could he/she be counted on to bow out gracefully?

Filmmaker Ivan Reitman addresses those

burning questions — and more about the dating habits of the high-flying, world-saving set — in his new big-screen comedy, "My Super Ex-Girlfriend," shot in Brooklyn's Steiner Studios. And, as one might deduce from the title, he comes to the conclusion that courting someone with extraordinary powers isn't necessarily all it's cracked up to be.

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: MYRTLE AVENUE

Five Spot

459-461 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue, (718) 852-0202; www.fivespotsouffood.com (Dine, MC, V) Entrees \$10-\$15.

A 60-foot bar, hardwood floors and an intricately patterned tin ceiling decorate Five Spot's dining room, while exposed brick, crushed red velvet and a wood-burning fireplace adorn the walls where co-owners Malik and Kim Armstead have been serving down-home cooking since 1996. Southern fried chicken and hickory-smoked spare ribs are just two of their popular dishes, and they're now serving 100-percent pure beef and turkey burgers, as well as veggie burgers. Five Spot offers a takeout and dine-in daily lunch special for \$6.95 that includes meat or fish and two side orders; in-house diners get half-off their lunch platters. Side dishes range from black-eyed peas and collard greens to macaroni and cheese and candied yams. Homemade cornbread is served with all dinner entrees.

For dessert, try Five Spot's individual pecan pie or peach cobbler; or opt for the red velvet cake. In the evenings, live music or DJs perform on stage. (Check the Brooklyn Nightlife listings for upcoming performers.) Open daily for lunch and dinner. Open for takeout from noon to midnight.

Kum Kau

463 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue, (718) 638-1850 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees \$5.95-\$12.75.

At Kum Kau, anything is possible. Customers are free to customize their own dinners, boasts manager Peter Cheng. While co-owners and chefs Jimmy and Anne Cheng make the sauces, other chefs divide duties depending on their specialties. A favorite at Kum Kau is the crispy baked shrimp with mild spices and rice. On Wednesdays, Kum Kau offers an "all you can eat" buffet lunch (\$5.99) and dinner (\$10.99) including almond cookies. Each week the buffet menu stays the same, allowing customers to enjoy traditional Chinese entrees. Kum Kau offers a special family menu for two or more people including soup, an appetizer, an entree, rice and dessert, all for \$11.95 per person. Takeout and private parties also available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Los Pollos III

499 Myrtle Ave. at Ryerson Street, (718) 636-6125 (MC, Visa) Entrees \$7.75-\$11.95.

This Mexican restaurant, which opened on May 16, is the latest arrival on Myrtle Avenue. Comfortable with a wood-furnished, brick-walled dining room and a sidewalk cafe, this is the third installment in the Los Pollos restaurant chain. Its predecessors Los Pollos I and II located in Park Slope and Sunset Park, the new Pollos serves its renowned burnished birds, hot and juicy off the rotisserie. Other specialties include guacamole, soft tacos and fajitas and one of owner Armando Zumbado's favorites, the fried plantains in garlic sauce. Open for lunch and dinner daily, with brunch served everyday, too, from 11:30 am to 4 p.m. Delivery available daily. Happy hour is everyday, from noon to 7 p.m.

Maggie Brown

455 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue, (718) 643-7001 (Cash only) Entrees \$9-\$18.

Maggie Brown, which opened in 2004, was named after the 79-year-old grandmother of co-owner Chelsea Altman. And the restaurant does bring international cuisine to the table grandma style. With a bit of Mexican here, and a bit of Italian there, and a whole lot of what chef and co-owner Johannes Sarzin, calls "Southern-influenced American gourmet comfort cuisine" in between, Maggie Brown's menu has something for everyone.

Specialties include grilled yellowfin tuna with fennel salad and soy ginger vinaigrette; the red wine-braised short ribs; or the Southern fried chicken with mashed potatoes with biscuits and gravy on the side. Grandma's hearty cooker is a tough act

★ = Full review available at

BrooklynPapers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Discover, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card

Walking & talking

Fairway dinner and lecture encourages better health — and mood — through diet

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

On Monday, I spent a delightful evening in a supermarket. With a group of about 15 others, I attended the first "Nutritional Walking Tour and Dinner," held in Red Hook's Fairway Market.

Fairway, which opened in May to the profound joy of the borough's chowhounds, is, as we know, like no ordinary market.

And being the specialty purveyor that it is, the store's management created a position that is unique among the four Fairway markets, if not all food retailers: "lifestyle facilitator."

The "lifestyle facilitator" is Mario Mitter, a registered dietitian specializing in pediatrics, adolescents and family nutrition. She refers to herself as "anti-resolution, anti-diet," believing that a healthy diet is one that "sets a balance of carbohydrates, protein and fat, with an emphasis on fresh fruit and vegetables for their antioxidant powers."

During the hour-long talk and walk, which also served as a fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the energetic Mitter led the group throughout the vast store, stopping briefly to offer nutritional tips. In front of a pyramid of blueberry boxes, Mitter expounded on the "optimal" fruit. "Did you know the blueberry has

the highest antioxidant value of any food?" she asked.

We didn't. None of us realized that the blueberry helped increase math and memory skills either.

"People are put off by the ugly kiwi fruit," said Mitter, but warned us not to be swayed by its hairy, dun skin.

"Not only can the fruit help to regulate respiratory illness, but it can be used in place of a baby aspirin as a blood thinner," she said.

Thanks to Mitter, we now know that goat cheese is lower in fat than other cheeses; high in calcium, protein and vitamin A; and a great energy booster. She informed the group that calcium, in the form of low-fat cheeses, binds to fat cells, so it functions as a weight loss aid. Who knew cheese could do that?

As Mitter talked, the group tasted tiny South African pickled red peppers called peppedewes filled with the creamy cheese.

One attendee was skeptical about buying organic products. Fairway stocks organic produce in abundance at prices higher than conventional, grown crops but considerably lower than you'll find in other borough specialty markets.

Mitter is pro-organic. "There are so many health risks out there with pesticides and pollution that



Trying something new: Tara McBride, Fairway's media and public relations specialist, serves up South African peppedewes stuffed with goat cheese to the participants of the Red Hook store's first "Nutritional Walking Tour and Dinner" on July 17.

it's important to our health to control what we can," she said. Mitter suggested avoiding fruits and vegetables with high "permeability levels and residues," specifically strawberries.

"The fruit's delicate, porous skin will absorb more pesticides than organic varieties and should always be eaten organic," she said.

After sipping crusty slices of bread in grape seed oil selected by Mitter for its "protection of cardiovascular health and its promotion of good cholesterol," we wandered over to the cafe where chef Alan Reisenburger had a three-course dinner prepared.

Reisenburger is the executive chef for all four Fairway Markets. The meal he created reflected the store's approach to healthy, balanced dining with plenty of nutritious ingredients and a few indulgences.

Some of the participants were reluctant to take their first courses outside after enduring a brutally hot day. However, once we assembled beneath the umbrella-topped tables on the store's deck, all was well. The air was cool and a cooling breeze blew from the river. In the distance, the Statue of Liberty was bathed in glorious pink light.

Michael Romano of Romano Brand Fine Wines, who supplied the drinks for the evening, poured a crisp, lemony Pinot Grigio that complemented our appetizers, following it with a soft Merlot as the meal progressed.

As we nibbled on tiny spinach pies, filet mignon with horseradish cream, sea bass and a luscious wild mushroom strudel, the diners at my table chatted about cooking at home and restaurants to visit. After a couple glasses of wine and a (small) serving of strawberry gelato, the sky was inky and only the lights of nearby boats aided our way back inside.

Father of invention

Timothée Spitzer, a Parisian ex-pat, waited patiently for someone in his Greenpoint neighborhood to open the kind of patisserie that offered the fresh-baked croissants and bread he loved back home.

When no one did, he opened Griboille (pronounced gri-bo-e, the name's French for "scribble," and a television cartoon character) in neighboring Williamsburg, a 24-seat patisserie and bistro with outdoor seating for 15.

"When we started in March," says Spitzer (pictured at left with co-owner Anthony Cotté, seated), "we just offered pastries, good coffee, salads and brunch. We now have dinner service with a three-course prix fixe menu." The self-confessed "amateur freak" fills his airy, window-lined space with vintage pottery and kitchen utensils he's collected over the years.

"It's clean and bright in here, and old fashioned, too," he says.

Surprisingly, the patisserie chef at this Gallic retreat is American. Jeanne

Neivert, formerly of Gramercy Tavern in Manhattan, bakes the buttery croissants, brittle-crustured tarts and rich quiches.

Spitzer oversees the savory end of the menu. He's proud of the tuna niccioise, made with fresh fish, and the brunch menu that includes a dish of organic eggs cooked in cream with wild mushrooms and bacon.

Wine and beer should be available in August.

Griboille (2 Hope St. at Roebling Street in Williamsburg) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Soups, salads and quiches: \$5.50-\$8.50; omelets, tarts and sandwiches: \$7.50-\$12.50; pastry: \$3.50-\$5. Three-course, prix fixe lunch is \$12.95; three-course prix fixe dinner is \$28.95. The patisserie is open from 8 am to 10 pm Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays. Brunch is served on the weekends, from 10 am to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 384-3100.

— Tina Barry

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(Don't) stop the presses

Johansson is over the top in her pursuit of serial killer 'Scoop'

By Karen Butler
for The Brooklyn Papers

"Scoop" is not a great Woody Allen movie; it's not a great reporter movie, either. But this good-natured confection is more likely to please moviegoers than most other entries in this summer's never-ending parade of high-octane blockbusters, most of which are re-treads of familiar material.

A lightweight, fish-out-of-water comedy written and directed by the Flatbush native, "Scoop" is about a wide-eyed, Brooklyn-born journalism student (Scarlett Johansson) who, while visiting friends in London, has the good fortune to stumble on the identity of a Jack-the-Ripper-type serial killer, thanks to the ghost of a recently deceased newsmen, played by "Deadwood" star, Ian McShane.

Since this is a Woody Allen film, viewers won't be too surprised with the silly conceit that the ghost makes his scintillating revelation while the girl is in a box helping a stage magician (Allen) perform a disappearing trick. Allen and Johansson then pose as a father and daughter from Brooklyn and insinuate themselves into upper crust English society in a clumsy attempt to identify the killer and launch the cub reporter's nascent career.

Of course, Allen's character is immediately embraced by the Brits who find his American wit and old-fashioned card tricks endlessly amusing, while Johansson's "reflexively" forward demeanor snags her a dashing aristocrat, played by "X-Men" hero Hugh Jackman, sans his Wolverine blades.

"Scoop" would probably fare better with critics and moviegoers if it hadn't been the auteur's follow-up to last year's Oscar-nominated drama, "Match Point," a razor-sharp study of relationships between friends and lovers of different cultural heritages and social classes. Like "Scoop," "Match Point" was set in modern-day London, starred Johansson in a leading role and ended in murder.

However, the 2005 film raised expectations, perhaps unfairly, that Allen had returned to the former greatness he exhibited with his movies "Annie Hall," "Hannah and Her Sisters," "Bullets



Fatherly advice: In his new film, "Scoop," Flatbush native Woody Allen (far right) plays a magician, who's pretending to be the father of budding journalist (Scarlett Johansson), in order to help her reveal the identity of a serial killer. Hugh Jackman plays a British aristocrat smitten with Johansson.

Over Broadway" and "Crimes and Misdemeanors." "Scoop" does not live up to those expectations and is more in the vein of his recent, lesser works like "Small-Time Crooks" and "Hollywood Ending."

The film also does not offer the kind of acute observations about the differences between the British and Americans that "Match Point" does, but to be fair, it's not really meant to. "Scoop" is a completely different type of movie, more concerned with entertaining us, than offering social commentary.

And, although it does have dozens of great lines, the Midwood High School graduate greedily bestows most of them upon his own character, leaving the audience to wish Allen had been a little more generous to his co-stars. That said, he and Johansson are fun to

watch as bumbling, undercover reporters and one can't help but be grateful Allen doesn't try to make Johansson his love interest in this film; in fact, he even pokes fun of the age difference between the 21-year-old actress and Jackman, her older leading man.

Which brings us to the biggest problem with the film: the casting of Johansson as the ingénue. So good in "Match Point" as a seductive American actress who wreaks havoc in the lives of a wealthy British family, Johansson has shown she can hold her own with film icons like Robert Redford and John Travolta in dramas and has shown a knack for subtle humor in comedies like "Lost in Translation" and "In Good Company."

Unfortunately, from looking at "Scoop," it is clear that Johansson's talent lies in playing the "old souls" and young women mature beyond their years from her previous films, and she does not have that same instinct for broad comedy; either that or Allen kept

directing her to go "bigger," in which case, the error is his because it doesn't work.

Although she definitely seems game for the role, Johansson comes across as manic and immature and it's hard to believe that Jackman's character would be so enchanted by her or that a well-respected British newspaper would take her seriously enough to print her story. It is not, however, difficult to believe she is somehow related to Allen's character since they have such terrific on-screen chemistry.

Another sticking point is that, during the course of the 96-minute film, she also sleeps with two of the subjects of her articles, a move that does not convince us she is a serious journalist—or a naive young woman.

All in all, "Scoop" is not the Woody Allen movie or reporter movie many would hope for, but filmgoers will enjoy it more than such disappointing "event" movies as "Poseidon," "The Omen" and "Click."

CINEMA

"Scoop" opens July 28 at the Cobble Hill Cinemas (265 Court St. at Douglass Street). For times and ticket prices, call (718) 596-9113.

'Place Matters' comes to the table

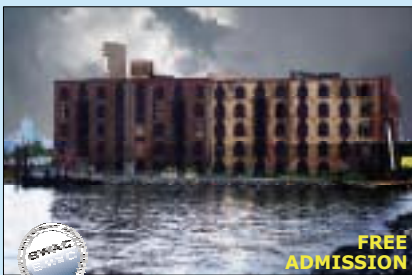
Fort Greene-based dance troupe Urban Bush Women presents a 74-person strong show, "Place Matters: A Look at Displacement," at Long Island University's Brooklyn campus on July 29. The program, directed by UBW founder Jawole Wilka Jo Zollar, will include spoken word, music and dance performed by UBW (including Maria Bauman, pictured) as well as the faculty and participants from their annual "Summer Institute."

This year, the Institute focused on the theme of "gentrification," according to the troupe's managing director, Amy Cassello. The artist-activists were encouraged to explore ideas about who is displaced in events such as Hurricane Katrina, the genocide in Darfur and the Iraq War.

UBW's "Summer Institute" aims to connect concert professionals and community-based artists in a learning experience to maximize the possibilities of the arts as a vehicle for social activism and civic engagement. The "Place Matters" participants hail from 17 states, the United Kingdom and Canada and range in age from 17 to 55.

The Urban Bush Women present "Place Matters" at Long Island University's Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts (Flatbush Avenue Extension at Dekalb Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn) on July 29 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$2 for children and students. For tickets, call (718) 488-1624. For more information, visit the Web site www.urbanbushwomen.org. —Lisa J. Curtis

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100 Wine Tips

Chardonnay, California Style

By Darrin Siegfried

One of the current forms of wine snobbery is to refer to yourself as a member of "The ABC Club": Anything But Chardonnay. When you press one of these people for an explanation and ask why they won't drink a Blanc de Blanc Champagne or a White Burgundy, both made from 100% Chardonnay, they'll usually say: "Oh, not those. I mean California Chardonnay."

Chardonnay from California can come in many styles, levels of dryness and alcoholic strengths, and many of them are not to my taste or yours, but to write off all of the Chardonnay produced in California seems to show an arrogance that is not supported by the facts.

Chardonnay is a member of the *Vitis Vinifera* family of grapes, which is believed to have evolved about 4,000 years ago in the area now called Iran. The name *Vitis Vinifera* is Latin for "the vine that bears wine," and almost all of the wine made today is made from grapes of this family.

Chardonnay can be traced back to Burgundy, in France, record books dating back to the Middle Ages still survive for many of the vineyards there, chronicling the hundreds of years of experimentation with hundreds of vines. Over time, the Burgundians came to realize that the white grape that did best in their cool climate and made the best tasting wine was Chardonnay. While it's early bud break made it unsuitable to late spring frosts, the high yield per acre, the rich flavor and the amount of alcohol in wine made from Chardonnay made it the winner in the "survival of the most fit" contest. Chardonnay spread farther north, to the chalky soil of Champagne, where it is the only white grape that is allowed by French Law.

Chardonnay, at its best, is a vehicle for the unique taste that a vineyard can give to grapes. Chablis tastes different from Puligny-Montrachet, and even the next-door-neighbor vineyards of Le Montrachet and Bâtard-Montrachet make wines that can be told apart by an experienced palate. This is what the French call some of "place" that is unique to that particular piece of the earth, and is a vital part of every great wine. Lower yields per acre seem to make wine with more evidence of *terroir*, rather than a Fruity taste.

California, like the rest of North America, does not share the long history of grape experimentation that Europe does, and many immigrant grape growers simply planted what they had grown back in the old country. As little as

fifty years ago there were fewer than 500 acres of Chardonnay planted in all of California. Today there are more than 100,000 acres, centered mainly in Napa, Sonoma and Monterey Counties.

Much of the credit for the explosive growth of Chardonnay in California goes to the late Professor Harold P. Olson. Dr. Olson developed more than 30 grape varieties and was responsible for improving many more. He came up with a clone of Chardonnay with a larger and tighter bunch than was currently being planted, and which produced better yields in warmer climates. These grapes made a full flavored wine with high alcohol content, and wine drinkers began to take notice.

Former Ambassador James Zellerbach and his wife, fans of the wines of Burgundy, planted their first vineyard with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in 1953, establishing Hanzell Vineyards in Sonoma. He imported new French oak barrels, much to the amusement of many old timers who made their wines in huge redwood vats. He knew that the best wines from Burgundy were made in oak and spent time maturing in oak, taking on some of the vanilla flavors from the wood. The stony, mountainside soil, the low yields from the vines and the use of oak brought out an exceptional wine that attracted more and more attention. A model for the future was created.

Most winemakers who use Chardonnay in California use oak in one form or another. New French oak barrels can cost between \$600 and \$700 each, which must be passed on to the consumer, driving up the price of the wine. Realizing that most wine drinkers who drink California Chardonnay want the distinct taste of oak in their wine, many cost-conscious wineries actually flavor their wines with oak chips. However, that toasty, vanilla aroma and flavor can, and often will, make whatever sense of *terroir* there may have been in the wine.

The buttery, creamy notes that most California Chardonnays share come from a second fermentation, *Malolactic Fermentation*. Called "Malo" for short, this process uses bacteria to convert Malic acid (from the Latin *Malus* for apple) into Lactic Acid, lower in overall acidity. Warm climate Chardonnays takes well to this step, much more so than Riesling or Chenin Blanc, for example.

Next week, we'll talk more about Chardonnay, California Style.



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July 22, 2006

SUPER...

Continued from page 9

that shifts all of the dynamics between the men and the women in the story. I thought there was a great opportunity for comedy in that."

Whereas Spider-Man and Mary Jane and Superman and Lois Lane have historically agonized over whether to consummate their on-screen relationships, Matt and G-Girl throw caution to the wind, plunging full-tilt into their own love affair, even having sex while flying over Times Square. Despite the obvious perks, it isn't long before Matt sees the downside of dating a woman with a secret identity.

A life-long fan of comic books and the movies they have inspired, Reitman admits Don Payne's script for this film appealed to him, in part, because he personally had always wondered what would happen if a superhero gave in to his crush on an ordinary person.

"I thought, 'There're great opportunities here if I ground it in reality and set it in a real place and not some mythical Metropolis,'" Reitman noted. "I certainly have a love for [comic books] that sort of goes back to when I was a kid, but at the same time, it is silly to be religious about this stuff. I'm making a romantic comedy, and my job here was not to make fun of — and we don't — the superhero ethic."

"I just started asking questions: If you are going to make love to someone, and you just met them, and you take your clothes off, oh, my God! You've got a costume on underneath. And that could be a big problem: just how she conducts her real life. Is it possible to have a real relationship?"

Mixing it up

For the former stage and TV producer, who moved with his family from Czechoslovakia to Canada when he was five, making films that mix genres is nothing new.

"You have to get the tone just right," said Reitman. "I found that — when I look at my body of work from 'Ghostbusters,' with movies like 'Twins,' 'Dave,' 'Evolution' and 'Six Days, Seven Nights' — I was like, 'I'm really into this!' And even with silly movies like 'Space Jam.' I obviously have a thing for genre-mixing."

Although primarily a comedy, the subject matter of "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" calls for some special effects, namely fighting and flying scenes. Reitman says he is impressed with how far technology has come since he made "Ghostbusters" in 1984, but emphasizes effects mean nothing if they aren't used to complement an intriguing story and characters the audience cares about.

"They're spectacular, but who cares about special effects, finally?" he mused. "I can say that because I've made four or five movies that have had strong effects elements to them. I think there is nothing duller than showing

off one's effects capabilities. "I think it's extraordinary what we can do, and it's a wonderful gift, a wonderful tool, but it means nothing unless it's toward telling a good story with interesting characters. That's what we look into as an audience. We care about people; what they are thinking, what they are feeling."

"What do we feel when we watch it? Not, 'Oh, my God, I can't believe that tidal wave is going to take Manhattan!' Yeah, that's fine for a minute or two, but after that, it's the human story you care about."

Made in Brooklyn

Reitman says he was quite pleased to find the Navy Yard's Steiner Studios capable of meeting all his needs, including the special effects end of the project.

CINEMA

"My Super Ex-Girlfriend" is now playing at the Bay Ridge Alpine Cinema (5817 Fifth Ave. at 68th Street, (718) 748-4200). Call the theater for more information about schedules and ticket prices.

"I think it's a great facility addition in New York," he said. "I've made five movies in New York, and this is the first one I did from top to bottom here. We had flying sequences, and we had some other complicated sequences we had to shoot. Those are some really big-time stages, and I think they're great."

So, did trashing New York City streets for comic effect make Reitman nostalgic for the days he worked on "Ghostbusters"?

"This is a great city to shoot in," Reitman said. "What makes me nostalgic for 'Ghostbusters' is to work with Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ramis; that was the joy of working on 'Ghostbusters' and 'Ghostbusters II.' They've become old friends. That's what you miss. It's not staging a marshmallow man walking down Columbus Circle; that's a pain in the ass. It's much better getting them all in a room and doing something funny."

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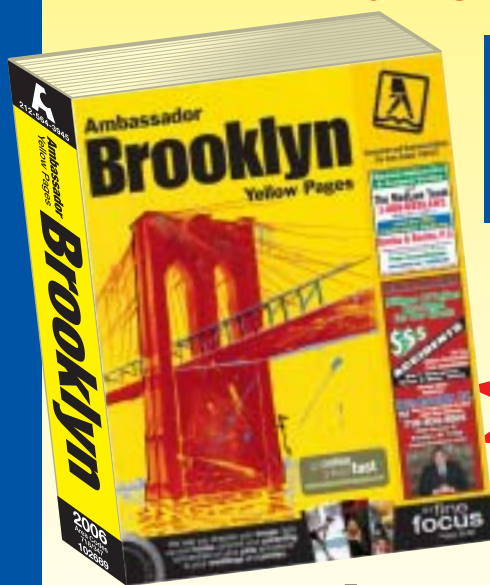
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front

Trumpeter-composer shares West Coast jazz with Park Slope neighbors

By Robert Hicks
for The Brooklyn Papers

Jazz trumpeter John McNeil points to his many years transcribing saxophone solos of Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins and Joe Henderson as the foundation for his unique playing style and his original ideas. "I think that's why my phrasing is a little unusual," he said from his home in Park Slope. "Saxophonists just play things differently from trumpeters. It's hard to describe. I just know it when I see it, and it's encouraged me to play things that aren't necessarily trumpet friendly."

McNeil and tenor saxist Bill McHenry lead a quartet at Night & Day restaurant in Park Slope every Sunday, focusing on relatively obscure composers from the West Coast cool jazz popularized by Gerry Mulligan, Stan Getz and Chet Baker in the '50s. The group plays compositions by Russ Freeman, George Wallington, Wilbur Harden, Carson Smith, Deniz Best and Jack Montrose.

"I checked out music from that West Coast cool era," he said. "As a result, I stumbled across a lot of these tunes by other composers. I thought, 'These are great tunes, but nobody plays them.'"

McNeil and McHenry decided to approach these "50s tunes from a modern perspective while preserving the basic harmonies and melodies of the original compositions."

"We play these tunes differ-



Bugle boy: On Sunday nights in Park Slope's Night & Day, John McNeil and his quartet can be found performing West Coast cool jazz from the '50s.

ently from the way the original guys did, but we preserve a lot of the original feeling," he said.

McNeil, 58, rediscovered these composers while re-

searching material for his new CD, "East Coast Cool," on Omnitone Records. He wrote nine original compositions based on the great Gerry Mulligan-Chet Baker Quartet. His quartet also reinterpreted a West Coast cool

standard called "Bernie's Tune," written by Bernie Miller for Mulligan. He enlisted contemporary composer and baritone saxophonist Kenny Berger to write a new tune called "GAB" in the spirit of Mulligan and he reinvigorated Arnold Schoenberg's "Piano Concerto."

A northern California native, McNeil fell in love with the trumpet after hearing Louis Armstrong perform on the Milton Berle Show on television in the '50s. Largely self-taught on trumpet, he abandoned his

dreams of becoming a chemist to perform in local jazz bands before studying music at the University of Portland.

Legendary jazz trumpeter Clark Terry encouraged McNeil to move to New York City.

"It was bleak," McNeil said of his first years here. "I played every kind of gig you can imagine. I mostly played in salsa bands. I played in a wedding band, a Gypsy funeral band. It's incredible the images I still have in my head. I played every damn thing imaginable. I even played in a band at Yankee Stadium."

McNeil settled in Park Slope in the early '70s and has lived in the neighborhood ever since. When he first moved here, McNeil said the neighborhood was affordable, "relatively unsafe" and lacked the many jazz clubs that now populate Fifth Avenue.

"It took me a while to break in and make some money," he said. One of the first jazz rooms he played was the now-defunct bar, City Lights, on Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope. He also remembers playing at Brown's in Bay Ridge.

The trumpeter has recorded as a bandleader for three decades. Since signing with Omnitone Records in 2002, he has found a new audience and renewed critical acclaim on recordings such as "This Way Out" (2003), "Sleep Won't Come" (2004) and now, "East Coast Cool" (2006).

A year after Mulligan died on Jan. 20, 1996 in Darien, Conn., McNeil accepted the challenge of rearranging the late baritone saxophonist's music for a series of tribute concerts in the U.S. The painstaking task of poring over charts gave McNeil a new appreciation for Mulligan's abilities as an arranger and composer of linear, contrapuntal music in the '50s.

"I started to think about what would happen if I took what he wrote and applied it to free music," McNeil said. "Back when he was writing this stuff, the role of the bass player and the drummer were pretty well defined. They weren't really interactive too much. They were basically keeping time."

"I thought we would need to allow for contemporary bass playing and drumming at the same time," continued McNeil. "I thought, 'What if I could make this work?' and I started writing some music."

BROOKLYN Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara F. Coran

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Bar 4

444 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-9800.
July 23: Dave Scott Quintet, 8 pm, 10 pm. \$5 (includes both sets).

Barbes

374 North St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.barbesnyc.com
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MUSIC

John McNeil Quartet, featuring tenor saxophonist Bill McHenry, bassist Tom Hubbard and drummer Jordan Ruckert, performs at Night & Day (230 Fifth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope) on Sundays, from 8:30 pm to 11 pm, except July 30 and Aug. 6. Tickets are \$6. For tickets, call (718) 399-2161, www.nightanddayrestaurant.com.

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Goodbye Blue Monday

1087 Broadway at DuSable Avenue in Bushwick, (718) 453-4343.
July 26: This Song is a Mess, but so am I. Boyz n' Beatz, 8 pm. STB.

Griswold's Pub

119 E. 7th St. at 7th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 349-4800.
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Continued on page 14...



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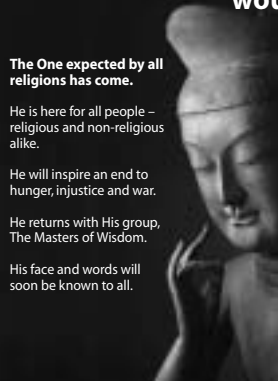
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

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The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

Clones take their show on the road

JUST WHEN IT LOOKED AS THOUGH THINGS couldn't get worse for the 7-13 Cyclones, the team headed out on a six-game road trip to the distant cities of Williamsport, Penn., and Burlington, Vt.

As Dickens began his own of two cities, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," so it was for the Cyclones.

It was indeed the worst of times for the Brooklyn as they started the season with an Opening Day 18-0 loss to the Staten Island Yankees. This aforementioned record-setting game of futility was followed by six more losses. A week into the season and the Cyclones were 0-7, and in last place.

Ah, but despite a broken-down bus, a broken-down bus driver and a few missed turns, the road turned out to be the best of times: The Brooks have just completed a six-game road swing and won them all — giving them a seven-game winning streak as they returned to Brooklyn.

The road trip began on July 12 with a 10 am bus departure from KeySpan Park prior to a 7 pm game that night in Williamsport. Routine, right? Not so fast. Dickens knew that the routine was boring for his readers, but he wasn't around to mess up this bus trip. He didn't have to be.

Somewhere in the wilds of Pennsylvania, the bus got a flat tire. Changing the tire took the bus driver about as long as it takes notoriously deliberate Mets starter Steve Trachsel to pitch a half-inning. Watching the tire being changed may have been more exciting than seeing Trachsel, but it did add a half-hour onto the five-hour trip.

Further into Pennsylvania, near Allentown, the bus driver became ill — not seriously, but too ill to drive the bus. Now, the Cyclones carry 14 pitchers, but there's not enough for a 30-inning ball game, but they have no such depth in bus drivers. So Williamsport sent its own bus company, and driver, to pick up the stranded Cyclones.

This took a mere three hours, so Brooklyn arrived barely an hour before the game, fine for your softball league, but somewhat disconcerting for the Brooks, since the team barely had time for its pre-game warm-up at the ballpark.

The Williamsport ballpark, Bowman Stadium, is considered the second oldest in America — old school all the way. Nice old school. It has tall fences and tall grass in the infield, which combine for few homers, lots of grounders that get nabbed, and a great, slow surface on which to punt.

In the first game of the Williamsport series, Jacob Ruckle, barely untwisted from his eight-hour bus ride, kept the ball low, made Williamsport hit grounders and won 4-1. He's pitching marvelously so far this season.

In the second game of the series, Brooklyn again played small ball and won 2-1. And in the series' final game, the Cyclones used bunt after bunt to set up their 5-3 win.

AFTER THE GAME, THE TEAM DEPARTED around midnight for the 437-mile trip to Burlington. With another driver sent from the Academy Bus Company, this one known as, "Fast — really fast," by Cyclones' trainer Matt Hunter.

"I just shut my eyes, slept, and hoped we'd arrive safely," he said.

Reliever Grady Hinchman described bus riding: "We have a couple of pillows each, and they show movies, like 'Caddyshack,' most of which I watched. We try to sleep, and you can sleep some, but it's cramped and it's hard to do."

Just as there's strategy in baseball, so too is there strategy in bus driving. The driver decided to try a shortcut.

"Things were good for awhile," said Hinchman of the shortcut route. "All of a sudden the road just ran out, and there were all these orange pylons ahead. There was a detour."

"Once you hit one detour, that's the end of a smooth trip," said Hinchman. He was right. The bus arrived in Burlington two hours late — at 8:30 am.

The team won later that night — despite a rain delay. The Cyclones won the next night too, 5-4.

Hinchman won in relief, and the lead run by the Cyclones came in the ninth on a Jon Malo walk, a sacrifice bunt by Jason Jacobs, and an error when the Vermont first baseman lost a ball in the lights.

Brooklyn made a complete sweep of the road trip the next evening, winning 6-4, again scoring in the ninth, this time two runs, and again featuring a successful sacrifice bunt, this one by Luis Rivera to put Malo and Jeremy Hambrice in scoring position for Dustin Martin's two RBI single.

Suddenly, the Cyclones were 13-13. It's not all good news, though. The team has only hit five homers this season, and the team batting average is only .212.

But recently, when the money is on the line, the club gets runners on, gets them over and gets them in.

The set-up men — Hinchman, Rip Warren, and Haines — have been solid, while closer Joe Smith is becoming lights out.

The road trip was a tale of two cities — Williamsport and Burlington — conquered by a third — Brooklyn.

OK, so it's only a borough — but it's a borough that's back in the McNamara Division race.

Greer report

With the Cyclones taking six of their last eight games — fully erasing the team's horrendous 0-7 start, which had some fans calling for manager George Greer's head — the skipper's job finally looks safe. Still, it never hurts to check our handy Greer-ometer.

WHAT'S THE SCORE?

For a complete summary of games for the week — and for all time — visit us online at www.BrooklynPapers.com

Brooklyn's REAL newspapers

BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

In the spirit of 'The Brat'

Rover instructor Rick Patterson shows Stanky's passion

The Brooklyn Papers

When the Cyclones played Williamsport on July 14, old school Brooklyn Dodger fans had a connection to Brooklyn's baseball past.

Eddie "The Brat" Stanky was a player who wasn't highly skilled in any area, yet could so often find a way to defeat the other team.

Stanky later coached at the



University of South Alabama, where one of his players was

Rick Patterson, now a roving instructor for the Mets.

Stanky "was like a Daddy to me," Patterson said.

That was clear enough during the game. Patterson was in the Cyclones dugout when an ump made a controversial call against Brooklyn. He stormed out of the dugout, arms akimbo, red in the face, arguing that the umpires were not in position to make the call cor-

rectly. Patterson was ejected, but came back for more arguing, making sure to get his money's worth.

The Cyclones got beneficial calls on the next two close plays.

So the question must be asked: Would a disciple of Stanky purposely get himself tossed, saving manager George Greer the trouble, intimidating a young umpire into giving

Brooklyn the next close calls, and inspiring his team for a win?

We never found out: Patterson was showered and heading to his next assignment when the last out of the game was recorded.

Perhaps the ever-rough coach just needed a way to get out of the dugout and into the showers so he'd make his bus. — Ed Shakespeare



Former Brooklyn Dodger Eddie Stanky (above) during his days with the White Sox.

Take me out to the ... ah, nevermind

for The Brooklyn Papers

Fans who headed to KeySpan Park on July 18 must have felt like the Almighty was sending down a new block of plagues.

First, the stadium lights flickered and turned off in the fifth inning, suspending play for a half hour. Then, two innings later, the blistering hot air turned into 26 mile-per-hour gusts, sending plastic bags, paper napkins and aluminum foil trays scattering all over the outfield grass.

A few minutes later, a member of the grounds crew had to delay the game to close two doors in center field.

But Mother Nature was just getting warmed up. Within the next 10 minutes, a hot dog stand, two beer

stands, an ice cream stand, numerous pretzel and popcorn stands and a 7-Up vending machine were all blown to the ground.

The two teams kept playing, but the fans headed to exits.

Then the rains came in the ninth inning, delaying the game again. Fans who were still there headed toward the dugouts for autographs.

Security guards danced to the music. Reliever Grady Hinchman scratched a family of turtles in the dirt by the first-base dugout, and closer Joe "Iceman" Smith kept people from stomping on them.

The game finally resumed with just 43 fans on hand to watch Luis Rivera to pop out to end the game. Plagues indeed: The Cyclones lost. — Nick Pauly



The Brooklyn Papers

Cyclones manager George Greer is part of group that engineered a revo-

lutionary concept in the Cape Cod League: wooden bats.

Of course, pine was the norm in amateur baseball for about a century, but in the 1970s, amateur programs, including colleges, began to switch to metal bats to save money.

The Cape Cod League is recognized as the premier summer league for college players, and the decision in 1985 to use wooden bats led other summer college leagues to follow.

"I was talking in the parking lot after a game with [league Commissioner] Fred Everett, my assistant coaches and two scouts.

"We said, 'Wouldn't it be great to have wooden bats?'"

lutionary concept in the Cape

There was a concern about the cost, but the two scouts said that they would ask the Baseball Commissioner's office to pick up part of the cost. We realized it would be the greatest thing to ever happen to the Cape League and for the advancement of these players."

It was not only the batters who would benefit from wooden bats.

"You can evaluate pitchers better because they can pitch inside and pitch away and not have dinkers and dinkers over the second baseman's head," explained Greer.

One sixth of major league players have played in the Cape Cod League. Those players certainly benefited from George Greer's wooden bat revolution.

Most Cyclones, unfortunately, came up through the ranks, where aluminum bats are favored — creating quite an adjustment period, judging from the team's paltry .212 batting average. — Shakespeare

A week's worth of wins for Clones

The Brooklyn Papers

Cyclones 4 Crosscutters 1 July 12 at Williamsport

The Cyclones extended their winning streak to two games, as starting pitcher Jake Ruckle was superb as usual. Ruckle (2-1) allowed just one run on five hits over eight innings. He also K'd six. Closer Joe Smith, who has been lights out as well, pitched a perfect ninth. Smith has not allowed a run since his first disastrous appearance in a Cyclone uniform.

Brooklyn started the scoring in the fourth when Jeremy Hambrice, who had walked and moved around the bases on an out, a wild pitch and an error, scored on an Elvis Cruz sac fly. In the fifth inning, Jonathan Sanchez doubled and Dan Cummins — both later scored on wild pitches.

In the eighth, the Clones got a real run when Jonathan "Country Boy" Gerschel drove in Joe Holden with an RBI single. — Gersh Kuntzman

Cyclones 2 Crosscutters 1 July 13 at Williamsport

Starter Jorge Reyes, who has struggled all year, finally lived up to his promise, scattering four hits over seven scoreless innings. The Cy-

clones scored in the fifth, when Dustin Martin bunted home Daniel Cummins. The team added a run in the ninth to extend its win streak to three. — Kuntzman

Cyclones 5 Crosscutters 3 July 14 at Williamsport

How sweet it is! The Cyclones completed a three-game romp in usually unfriendly Williamsport, starting off the eighth inning with a Jonathan Schennel single. Schennel later scored on Jason Jacobs' forceout. Dustin Martin, Joe Holden (whose two HRs lead the team) and Jacob Eisig (.300) each had two hits for the Cyclones. Reliever Timothy Haines (2-0) got the win, pitching 1 2/3 scoreless innings. Closer Joseph "Iceman" Smith worked a perfect ninth for his fifth save. — Kuntzman

Cyclones 6 Lake Monsters 4 July 15 at Burlington

The Cyclones won their fifth straight game, beginning the scoring in the first on Joe Holden's two-run homer.

The Brooks increased their lead to 4-0 in the third when Jonathan Sanchez doubled and eventually scored on a double-play.

A Vermont homer in the fourth pushed the Lake Monsters to within a run, but Brooklyn

surged back in the fifth, scoring two runs on a single by Tim Grogan (the team leader with 11 RBIs).

For the Cyclones, Eric Brown (1-0), just arriving from Hagerstown, took the win. Joe Smith, pitching the ninth, had his sixth save. — Ed Shakespeare

Cyclones 5 Lake Monsters 4 July 16 at Burlington

OK, it was ugly, but it's six straight. With the game tied 4-4, the Cyclones scored a run in the ninth on a walk, a bunt and an error.

But hey, it's a W.

Brooklyn opened the scoring with a three-run second that featured Joe Holden's two-run single.

After Vermont scored a pair in the third, the Cyclones took a 4-2 lead in the fifth on a single by Jonathan Sanchez.

Vermont tied the score in the seventh, but the Lake Monsters turned chicken in the ninth.

Grady Hinchman (2-0) had the win in relief. — Shakespeare

Cyclones 6 Lake Monsters 4 July 17 at Burlington

The Cyclones swept their second straight three-game road series, ran their winning streak

to seven and, most important, got their record back to .500 at 13-13.

Down 4-2 in the sixth, Brooklyn tied the score on a two-run single by Tim Grogan.

For the second straight night, the Cyclones took the lead in the ninth, again started by Jon Malo, who singled and moved to second on Jeremy Hambrice's walk. Luis Rivera bunted them both over, setting up Dustin Martin's two-run single.

Jonathan Castillo (1-0) had the win in relief. — Shakespeare

Tigers 4 Cyclones 2 July 18 at KeySpan Park

All good things must end: The Cyclones seven-game winning streak was stopped in a weird loss to Oronota.

The game was scoreless until the fifth when the park's lighting went out, causing a half-hour delay. Once they were back, the Tigers scored a run.

The Cyclones came back in the sixth when Jon Malo singled and later scored on a single by Jonathan Sanchez (.237). The pair combined two innings later with the same run-scoring scenario — but the Tigers kept scoring.

Rip Warren (0-1) had the loss in relief for Brooklyn, whose record fell to 13-14. — Shakespeare

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When to seek help with fertility

Genesis Fertility

With intense interest in the subject of infertility and fertility therapy, most couples who experience difficulty conceiving are aware that medical solutions exist to solve their problem.

What may not be clear, however, is when to initiate contact with a physician, and what type of physician should be consulted for the problem.

Infertility is generally defined as failure to conceive after 12 months during which no contraception has been used. Consequently, the general recommendation has been to seek medical evaluation after one year of trying. However, this recommendation is not appropriate when the woman involved is 35 years old or older.

The reason for this has to do with the significant decline in fertility potential as women age. At this time of life, an aggressive approach should be taken, especially for women who have no children. Therefore, women in this age group should seek consultation if they are not pregnant within six months of trying.

By the time infertility has become apparent, most women will already have established a relationship with a gynecologist. For those women who have previously had children, this physician may be someone who has previously attended their pregnancy and delivery. It would seem obvious to choose an evaluation by this trusted physician as a first step.

Indeed, many fertility problems respond to counseling and simple interventions such as corrections of problems with ovulation, and are resolved by the general gynecologist.

Problems that are more complex in nature, however, should warrant a discussion of referral to a reproductive endocrinologist, more commonly known as a fertility specialist.

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine has issued guidelines to practitioners regarding the provision of services for couples with infertility.

Level I refers to situations where the infertility is less than 2 years duration, the woman is less than 35 years old, there is no male factor, and there are no anatomical factors requiring correction. A general gynecologist may

handle such cases initially. Level II care is for more longstanding cases, but where the infertility is less than 3 years' duration, the woman is less than 35 years old and uncomplicated anatomical problems, such as mild pelvic scarring, may exist.

Generally, physicians providing care at this level must contact with a physician, and have timely access (i.e. seven days a week) to all appropriate laboratory services that might be required to deliver care.

Level III care is for couples that are older, have longstanding infertility and/or who require assisted reproductive techniques, such as in vitro fertilization.

Physicians providing care at this level should possess special certification in Reproductive Endocrinology, have access to appropriate laboratory services and have counseling services available.

The management of infertility may range from simple counseling or using oral medications to regulate hormonal cycles to highly complex medical and surgical interventions requiring a team of reproductive endocrinologists, urologists and embryologists.

It is important for couples who are just confronting infertility to know that solutions exist for virtually every problem. With time and appropriate expertise, nearly all will eventually achieve their goal of building a family.

The physicians at Genesis, trained specialists in reproductive endocrinology and infertility, have helped thousands of couples and individuals build families.

The information provided in this article was a collaborative effort between the reproductive endocrinologists and clinical nursing staff at Genesis Fertility & Reproductive Medicine. Scientists, nurses, medical assistants and a clinical psychologist are on staff, all with special expertise in caring for infertile couples.

The administrative and operational staffs that work with the health professionals at Genesis are dedicated to keeping your journey to parenthood as smooth as possible. To that end, the Genesis center is open 365 days a year.

To obtain further information about Genesis, please call (718) 283-8600 or visit their Web site at www.genesisfertility.com. Genesis is located at 1355 84th St. in Brooklyn.

Breastfeeding support at NYM



Susan Storey, R.N., certified lactation consultant, helps a new mother get started with breastfeeding.

New York Methodist Hospital

New York Methodist Hospital is now offering a breastfeeding support group for mothers of newborn to 3-month-old babies. The support group will offer nursing mothers the opportunity to discuss questions or concerns with a certified lactation consultant, within a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recognize that breastfeeding has numerous health advantages for both mothers and their newborn children. Proper breastfeeding can offer nutritional, immunologic, developmental, psychological, social, economic, and environmental benefits.

The free group at New York Methodist Hospital will take place on Thursdays from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Registration is required. For more information or to register, please call (718) 780-5081.

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Richard A. Klass, Esq., maintains a law firm engaged in general civil practice in Brooklyn Heights. He may be reached at (718) COURTST or RichKlass@courtestlaw.com for any questions.

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